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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 6 Mar Session

91AS0719A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
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[Text] Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and parliamentary division. Yesterday's open session of the Majles was held this morning [as published] with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Tehran, Esfarayen and Talesh, certain articles on the draft bill for a chamber of commerce, industries and mines were discussed and ratified.

Below you will read the pre-agenda speeches of the representatives and the ratifications of the Majles. 'Abbas Sheybani, the Representative of the People of Tehran

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was 'Abbas Sheybani, from Tehran.

He said: Twelve adventurous years have passed since the Islamic revolution. Everyone has taken a step somewhere along the way and rendered a service. The enemy has used all its ruses to try to overthrow this divine regime, but God did not wish the government of the barefooted, which gained strength under the leadership of the late leader in this Islamic country, to change, even though there is still a long way to go to establish a true Islamic government, because we ourselves have not yet understood Islam as we should and have not implemented it within ourselves. Still, gold and power allure many, and the market for piety and self-sacrifice is stagnant, and the enemy has used and is using the weapon of disunity to overthrow popular governments.

He added: Rather than talking about "you and me" and personal conflicts, we had better join hands and, as in the early days of the revolution, take the first step toward serving the people and know that the unity of the nation is a thorn in the side of the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

The speaker, referring to the Persian Gulf war, said: It is said that the aggressor must pay reparations. It is true that Iraq was the apparent aggressor. But who helped Iraq in its aggression against Iran? Was it anyone other than the United States which told its allies, that is, the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to give Iraq resources, and in the end entered the scene itself? The main aggressor is the Great Satan, which must pay reparations. It is the United States that, by killing the defenseless people of the Islamic countries and destroying the cities and the national wealth of the people of the region, is the most despised government in the view of Muslims.

The representative of Tehran, addressing the Muslim nations of the world, said:

You should know that, because you have not understood Islam and have not turned to God, your enemies have dominated you and plundered your wealth and with your own money have bought artillery, tanks, missiles, and so on, to make you even more subjugated. Let us all join hands and spend the wealth of the Islamic countries on improving the condition of Muslims and, following our Islamic duties, think about the countries which have been kept down. If we do so, we can say that we are among those who truly await the coming of the Imam of the Age, Mahdi.

Sheybani continued: Fortunately, the promise has been made that next year the elections will be held for the Islamic councils, and in this connection the heavy burden of supervision over the elections will be on the shoulders of the Majles and the elected representatives of the Majles in the central supervisory board. God willing, they will be able to carry it out well and inform the Majles and the people of the progress of the task. By electing faithful and committed people accepted by them, the people should become more involved in their own destiny, because the foundations of a government of the people, by the people begins at this point, and here I am emphasizing all the people.

Everyone should be informed that these councils concern the whole nation and not just a select group, that people should not step aside. It is true that there need to be particular qualifications for those who are elected. But since these elections will affect the destiny of everyone, we must try to choose candidates for whose election the majority of the people will participate and determine their own destiny. We should not consider the Islamic councils insignificant. The foundation of the Islamic Republic and the popular government is on the shoulders of every member of the nation. If all pay attention to their own destiny with all their hearts, it is with this cooperation and support, and only then, that many of the problems will be resolved. Or, if the capabilities are protected, because they are present themselves, they will work harder to eliminate the shortcomings.

He added: High prices are a heavy burden on the shoulders of the working people and are becoming heavier every day. Even though the serving government has had significant involvement in the economic activities, many factories have become active, and prices on the open market have dropped, still, for ordinary people, prices are several times what they were. Coupon goods reach people's hands too late, whereas the same goods are found in abundance on the open market.

Enumerating some of the other problems of the people, he said:

Without controls over prices, the slight salary increases will not have any benefit for the people, especially since there is so much talk about these increases, and they are discussed in interviews and speeches, and when it reaches the employee, the high price of goods becomes a bottomless pit which cannot be filled with such a paltry sum.

The speaker added: A point to which I request that the officials pay attention is to give priority to the people

and in their planning put themselves in the people's place. If you tell people, Do not park here, provide parking close to that area. For instance, several offices and institutions are located on one street. They have no parking even for their own vehicles, and the people who need to go there are confused. In such instances, cooperation must take place with the City Hall. In regards to the inspection of cars for emission control, the hard-working officials of the traffic police should only find problems concerning emissions or problems that would compromise driving, rather than body work problems and such. Also, licensed repair shops are required for car inspections so that the equipment needed for the cars and about which technical problems have been pointed out are sold at government prices. Again, I emphasize, Do not pay attention to the appearance of cars. The people have so many problems and are under such pressure from inflation that it would be unfair to force them to attend to appearances.

In continuation, he offered his congratulations on 14 Esfand [5 March], the anniversary of the establishment of the Relief Committee, to all those who work hard without resources and added: It is hoped that the view of our late imam, which was that attention be paid to the condition of the oppressed people in our society, is followed with regard to the pricing of goods. The officials should not try to make up for the accumulated losses of the factories in a short period of time.

Another point to which we must pay attention is the practice of relationships over regulations, such that if a person has no connections his case is hopeless. This bothers the people more than the shortages.

Seyyed Reza Nowruzzadeh, the Representative of the People of Esfarayen

Seyyed Reza Nowruzzadeh, from Esfarayen, was the second pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday.

He said: This is precisely the justice of the Divine, Who did not allow a great man whose whole being was dedicated to serving Islam and Muslims to lose face, and for that matter, a lofty human being such as the grand leader of the revolution, who drank the cup of poison, compromised his own prestige and accepted Resolution 598. The world today is a witness to the fact that all of those who set the fire of war against our country are burning in war, destruction and annihilation. Of course, we are not happy about what has occurred, but we must know that if the people of the region had been on the scene and had expressed their views on the political issues of the region and, as the popular phrase goes, had not considered religion separate from politics, today such a group as these oppressive rulers would not be playing with the interests and resources of millions of Muslims in the region. Hence, if any injustice has entered the region, it is due to the acceptance of oppression. My recommendation as a representative of the Majles and a brother Muslim is for the people to be alert and on the scene.

He added: The Muslims of the world want and support Islamic leaders, and the unqualified support of the Muslims for the leadership and the officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran verifies this. It is better for the reactionary rulers of the region to look at the unprecedented magnificent welcome of the Muslim people of Pakistan for the honorable speaker of the Majles, Ayatollah Karrubi, and think about why the oppressed people of Pakistan, with all its power, welcomes a combative and revolutionary Muslim. With a little contemplation, one can reach the conclusion that the position of the officials of the regime of Iran among the Muslims of the world is based on their sincere service and on observing the Islamic and Koranic principles and precepts and the manifestation of pure Mohammadan Islam. Such a welcome indicates the export of the revolution and the strong and popular position of this revolution, not only among Muslims but among all oppressed masses suffering at the hands of the oppressors of the world. It is hoped that the officials of the country and the media, particularly the Voice and Vision, take the necessary initiative to make the valuable results of this important visit known to everyone.

In connection with the strategy of industrial expansion, he said: The policy of supporting domestic industries to replace imports of consumer goods with domestic production in the past resulted in the expansion of the consumer industries of the country. At the same time, the situation with regard to the rather heavy commercial duties and taxes on the import of consumer goods not only reduced the relative freedom of the import of intermediate and investment goods and the import of consumer goods, but caused severe dependence on the import of intermediate and investment goods as well. This trend has continued to this point, such that so far it has not been able to change the increasing and multiple effects of the oil revenues to expand in the direction of creating basic industries. In other words, in the past 10 years, national demand resulted in the increase in the production of durable consumer goods without having a significant effect on the increase in production of the intermediate and investment units which are necessary for the production of consumer goods. As a result, the demand for the intermediate and investment institutions, rather than resulting in their expansion, caused increased reliance on the imports of such goods from other countries.

He continued: If we take a sweeping glance at the population of the country, we realize that with a population growth rate of 3.2 percent, our country will have a population of more than 70 million in the next few years, and if we want to change the declining trend of the national revenues from which our country has suffered in the past years to a lasting trend of growth in the near future, and in order for a rational balance to be created

between consumption and investment in the society, with priority given to productive investment in the future, it is necessary to take the following measures:

1. To raise the ceiling of national revenue production.

2. To devise educational and training programs at all levels from elementary to higher education so that individuals who enter the job market at any juncture have the opportunity for employment in useful, productive activities.

3. To give priority to expenditures which will result in increased production coupled with the establishment of new job-creating opportunities, as opposed to expenditures that lack direct production results and are merely for comfort.

4. To expand the industries and mines sector by providing job opportunities, increasing revenues, and increasing welfare and social security.

He emphasized: In order to achieve the above goals, the solution is financial change in the industrial structure of the country, which, fortunately, has been foreseen in the five-year plan proposed by the government. In order to clarify the issue, I shall refer to the industrial production structure in developed countries.

Considering the published results, the share in the production of light industries in the total industrial production in time will decrease in the course of economic production, whereas the share of heavy industries will increase. The share of light industries in the developing countries in 1938 was about 69 percent of the industrial production, which declined in 1968 to 55 percent.

From this simple example, we can conclude that the creation of light industries in the beginning results in a reduction in dependence, but demand for raw materials in the various sectors, including agriculture and mines, results in more dependence on other countries. Yet, by investing in fundamental industries and the expansion of heavy industries in the country, the missing links between production in the intermediate and investment institutions, on the one hand, and the consumer goods needed by the masses of the people, on the other, will be eliminated. Hence, achieving the following objectives seems necessary in the course of the plan.

1. Creation and expansion of industries producing intermediate and industrial goods, such as chemical, petrochemical and steel industries.

2. Scientific and economic utilization and operation of industries that serve capital-producing industries, such as casting, iron working, machine manufacturing and wood making.

3. Creation and expansion of industries producing capital goods, such as machinery, industrial tools, various kinds of generators and heavy vehicles.

In conclusion, the speaker said: Fortunately, in the framework of the developmental plans proposed by the honorable government, basic steps have been taken toward reaching the above-mentioned goals and are being implemented within the framework of the ratified plans. Among them we should mention the important plans of the industrial ministries. I would also like to express to the president and the Economic Council my appreciation and that of the people of my constituency for the casting and iron working plan to produce heavy parts as part of the Esfarayen industries foundation being implemented in my constituency.

He also requested that the officials provide the necessary resources to implement the plans ratified for his constituency.

Seyyed Ebrahim Mir Ghaffari, the Representative of the People of Talesh

The third and last pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles was Ebrahim Mir Ghaffari, from Talesh.

He said: During the past 12 years, in the course of all the major policies followed during the life of our revered imam [Khomeyni], based on his views and, in his absence, the views of his pious and sincere student, the great leader [Kamene'i], the essence of the basic goals of the revolution have become more clear to us. Following the guiding light of religion and religious leadership, which place the policies of the country above common political games and the customary considerations and temporary and changing positions, helped us emerge from all the regional and international unrest safe, proud and with many options. Finally, the sighs from the suffering hearts of the grand families of the martyrs afflicted the dictator of Iraq, and the prayers of the Muslim nations were answered.

He added: The honorable officials of the country have noted that not only is our country still the most important country in the region, but, in an inseparable way, the security of Iran is tied to the stability and security of the Persian Gulf and the existence of instability in the region will cause our country many problems. In this crisis, what is important to us is the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf and the departure from the region of the bloodthirsty soldiers of America and its allies. The foreign governments must understand that their military presence will escalate insecurity and destabilize the Persian Gulf region. The security of the Persian Gulf must be entrusted to the countries of the region. The governments of the region must be made aware that military power is not enough to provide security, because the imported weapons can only create imported security and not national security. Within the security framework, the national goals and the factors that threaten security must be identified, the most important of which is the rivalry of the superpowers and foreign countries in the region. By identifying such security, the path to a collective

unity must be opened, and in order to create such a unity and achieve a collective security, the differences must be reduced to a minimum.

He pointed out: Blessed by the wise policies of the officials of our country, the capital of our country has become the most important diplomatic center to resolve the greatest and most critical crises and problems of the past several decades. The presence of the political leaders and representatives of countries near and far in Tehran and the telephone contacts of the honorable president with them as well as their consultations and negotiations with the officials of the country reveal the fact that our autonomous and principled foreign policy and the true diplomacy stemming from Islam and the administrative directives of the great leader have resulted in their turning to the active and trustworthy diplomacy of the Islamic Republic to achieve peace and security and to resolve this crisis. Therefore, it is certain that the Islamic Republic is the only country that can have the last word in the security of the Persian Gulf and play a key role.

The criminal United States and its allies must know that a nation that defended its country against their common aggression by offering its most valuable and beloved youth will today as well fight tooth and nail against any sort of political, aggressive action which will disrupt the sacred Islamic regime and its territorial integrity and will turn the region into a graveyard of criminals.

In connection with his constituency, he said: If the criterion for determining deprivation and poverty is lack of educational and cultural resources, health and treatment, roads, water, electricity, and other such resources, I must say to the distinguished officials of the country that most of the villages of the city of Talesh and its independent districts lack such resources, and the poverty of the people is increasing. The lush green of Talesh does not indicate its wealth or lack of deprivation. It is necessary for the honorable representatives to pay more attention to this city.

The people are content with the actions of the administrators and the executive officials of the city of Talesh and their efforts to implement the developmental programs based on the funds allocated, but the illegal, unauthorized and constant interference with the duties of the administrators and the officials and the conflicts which result from such uncontrolled interference have not only rendered the administrators ineffective but has caused them to despair and has weakened the results of their services. It was thought that the honorable officials of the country would ultimately investigate and make decisions about the problems. Unfortunately, the failure of the honorable officials of the country to deal decisively with and their lack of attention to this important issue has been worse than the executive directors anticipated and has also created an unpleasant impact on the people and has resulted in even bolder and harsher interference. Hence, I must say that if this problem is not contained, due to the increasing unrest, the consequences will be out of control.

Ratifications

In its open session yesterday, the Majles ratified the remaining articles of the draft bill for the chamber of commerce, industries and mines of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a report by our parliamentary correspondent, based on Article 12 of this bill, the number of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of Tehran shall be 45 persons as follows:

A. Fifteen persons from government directors in the commercial, industrial, mines and agricultural sectors, to be selected by the directors of the related units.

B. Five persons from the cooperative sector, to be selected by the representatives of the cooperative chamber.

C. [Twenty-five] persons from the private sector: 7 persons from the production and technical services guild, elected by the related group in Tehran; 3 persons from the distribution of technical services guild elected by the related group in Tehran; 5 persons from the merchants, elected by themselves; 10 persons from the owners of industries, mines and agriculture, including 3 persons from industries and [3 persons from] mines and 4 persons from agriculture.

Note 3 of the same article states: Contests to the elections shall be submitted to the supreme council of supervision, within a maximum period of one week from the time of the announcement of the results for the purpose of investigation and decision, and the council is required to announce its final decision within a maximum of 10 days after that week.

Based on Article 17, the duties and authority of the committee of the representatives of the Iran chamber are: (a) election of the board of directors, (b) study and ratification of the budget of the chamber and allocation of the budget, (c) study and expression of opinions in regards to reports and proposals of the committees and other units of the chamber and making decisions in regards to them with the authority conferred.

The duties and authority of the board of directors of the Iran chamber in Article 20 have been determined as follows:

A. Implementation of the ratifications of the supreme supervisory council and the committee of representatives.

B. Investigation and verification of the proposals and reports of the chamber and their report to the committee of the representatives and the supreme supervisory council, as the case may be.

C. Election of representatives of the chamber to participate in official domestic or international assemblies and determining their work and activities and the related expenditures.

D. Investigation, verification and allocation of the annual budget, to be prepared by the secretary general, and proposing it to the committee of representatives for ratification.

E. Election of the secretary general and supervision over his legal duties and authority.

F. Dismissal of the secretary general should he be incapable of carrying out his legal duties.

According to Article 24, in order to administer all the executive affairs of the chamber, based on the current regulations and laws, related bylaws and ratifications of the institutions of the chamber, the board of directors shall choose one person as the secretary general of the Iran chamber from among the other members for a period of four years.

A. The administration of all the executive affairs shall be in accordance with the current regulations of the chambers.

Also, in Article 25, the duties and authority of the secretary general of the Iran chamber shall be as follows:

B. Hiring, appointment and dismissal of employees of the chamber and determination of their salaries and benefits, duties and authority, based on the bylaws proposed by the secretary general and ratified by the board of directors.

C. Holding seminars and conferences about the issues related to the duties of the chamber, with the verification of the head of the supreme supervisory council.

D. Representing the chamber in the judicial offices and special courts with regard to persons (including actual and legal) on all adjudication levels by appointing attorneys and, when the need arises, making referrals for arbitration.

E. Carrying out any sort of transaction, including buying, selling, renting, leasing, and obtaining loans, in accordance with the financial and transactional bylaws and methods ratified by the board of directors and the supreme supervisory council.

Based on a report by the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT, the report of the Islamic guidance and art committee in regards to the first round of discussions on the draft bill for the expansion of domestic and international tourism industries was discussed and studied as the second item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday, and the continuation of the examination was postponed to the next session of the Majles.

Also, based on a vote passed by the leadership officers, the decision was made that the bill for employment regulations of the Guards Corps will be examined and discussed next week by the representatives.

In the continuation of the open session of the Majles yesterday, the question of Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Taha'i, the representative of Tonokabon, to the minister of economic affairs and finance concerning the failure to provide facilities to government employees to create housing and the failure to provide 10 billion tomans in loans to the education ministry employees was discussed.

In response to the question of Mr. Taha'i, Mr. Nurbakhsh said: Concerning the program involving the purchase of housing by the educators, given that our resources are limited, we created a savings fund for employees so that they will be able to make use of the banking facilities and housing loans through planning in several years.

He added: The level of interest-free loan deposits of the bank cannot respond to such an extensive plan; hence, the Majles must determine such a budget from which sources should be provided.

Following the statements of Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, Taha'i did not consider the answer satisfactory; therefore, the question of the representative of Tonokabon was referred to the committee on investigating questions.

The Majles will hold an open session on Sunday morning of next week.

* 10 Mar Session

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11 Mar 91 pp 5, 9

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—The Majles convened yesterday morning in public session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

After talks by the pre-agenda speakers, the Majles went into its agenda. During this session, single-urgency status was approved for the Released Prisoners Housing Loan Bill.

Printed below are the talks by the pre-agenda speakers and the legislation enacted by the Majles.

Khalil Musheh, Enzeli Deputy.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Khalil Musheh, Enzeli deputy. At the beginning of his talk he gave thanks and praise for the guidance and positions taken by the leader of the Muslims with regard to the Persian Gulf war.

[Passage omitted praising the leadership's handling of the Gulf Situation].

Continuing, he added: Some time has passed since the usurper regime in Jerusalem's aggression and occupation of the land of the oppressed people of Palestine and the United Nations Security Council resolution to repel this

aggression. Are the people of the world not asking themselves what is the difference between the aggression of the regime occupying Jerusalem, Saddam's aggression, and America's numerous acts of aggression in recent decades against countries in Asia and the Middle East and Panama and Grenada?

Musheh said: The question now before every truth-seeking and free person is, what is the reason for deferring enforcement of the Security Council resolution to drive usurper Israel out of the occupied territories? Who are the people responsible for this violation, which has led to crimes and the killing of children, youth, women, men and Muslim people?

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker discussed the tools for implementing the Five-year Plan. He said:

The realization of the administrative structure, the legal system and wages of government workers is not proceeding with the needed courage and along the expected path. If coordination is to be achieved through the serious acceptance of responsibility by the organization's officials in the payroll and wage system, eliminating obvious discrimination, and eliminating the duplication of jobs several times over in the various organizations, instead of piecemeal emphasis, a comprehensive view must be taken. It is not right for every official to think only of elevating his own organization and the welfare of his employees, and to put his organization above others. The government of Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani is fully aware that government workers are suffering from inadequate salaries in the face of increased payments, particularly rental costs and other primary needs. It will be possible to move only with serious and constructive legislation along with effective policies to increase production, which are being implemented, praise be to God.

Mr. Musheh also noted: When would the system of electing and appointing managers and officials from the lower and upper administrative ranks based on Islamic values be implemented, and function free from political favoritism and factionalism? When would the bureaucracy, paper-shuffling, and wandering of the public aimlessly through the administrative system be eliminated from the extensive administrative organizations and how can this be done and which policies are needed? Here I note the necessity for every person, every public figure and every official to implement the law.

He then discussed the work done by the judicial power in the Province of Gilan. He said: I thank His Holiness Ayatollah Yazdi, the respected chief justice, for his concerned attention following my memo of the month of Azar [22 November - 21 December 1990] from the Majles concerning weak management and the numerous judicial and administrative violations by the head of the ministry of justice in Gilan Province. I deem it necessary, however, to say that the investigators who were sent to Gilan province either did not know how to investigate the subject at hand, or, God forbid, they did not want to take up the issue. Instead of carefully investigating the complaints of the people, unfortunately the respected investigators were content, during a four-day trip, only to take depositions from several people concerning ten years of activity by the head of the ministry of justice in Gilan. Yet many of the respected justices either resigned, transferred to Tehran or other provinces, or requested retirement during the tenure of the head of ministry of justice in this province. The accumulation of files, the indeterminate status of many prisoners, the vagrant condition of clients and the change or disillusionment of judges are the products of several years of absolute rule by the respected head of the ministry of justice in the province. Despite the National Security Council's announcement of the dissolution of the intelligence unit of the ministry of justice in the province, unfortunately this unit continues its illegal activities. Is this not a thumbing of the nose at the National Security Council's order? My humble request is for a renewed investigation of the management of the ministry of justice in Gilan and a decisive approach to violators of the law in this province.

[Passage omitted on problems in Mr. Musheh's constituency].

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Saqz va Baneh Deputy

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, Saqz va Baneh deputy, was the second pre-agenda speaker. In his talk, he referred to recent events in the Persian Gulf area. He said:

The fragmentation and separation of Muslims has produced the slaughter of a generation and the bloodying of Islamic lands. Reactionary cooperation with America and its allies has produced the destruction of cities and Islamic places and irreparable damage for Muslims and has caused the presence of the forces of bloodshed in Islamic lands once illuminated by the blessed footsteps of the prophets and saints. Reaching Islamic goals, destroying the superpowers and imperialists, and empowering the oppressed, who are the inheritors of the earth, needs true unity. The Islamic nations must unite and mobilize, they must form a single front to make the region insecure for America, and they must refrain from fragmentation and going their separate ways, because the sheep that goes its own way becomes food for the wolf. Curses and damnation on criminal America.

He discussed compensation for the deprivation in Kordestan province. He said:

One of the acute problems in our region in the past was cultural deprivation. Of course our culture is rich and we are not poor, but imperialism prevented growth during the time of Taghut [Satan; reference to the late Shah]. Overthrowing imperialism and exploitation and moving rapidly towards cultural revitalization require that guiding this sensitive, legitimate rapid movement be in the hands of the leaders of the government and experts. For this reason, we see the implementation of Article 15 of the Constitution as a step towards meeting this need. The speaker then noted:

A point worthy of attention is the daily rise in prices, and naturally the pressure for that is felt mostly on workers, residents of deprived, border and war-stricken areas. In those areas, the lack of factories and producing companies on the one hand and the lack of modernization or noteworthy trade in imported goods on the other have raised prices. Therefore the implementation of projects and aid by the respected Council of Ministers, especially in the deprived war-stricken areas and the use of those benefits in the above areas is necessary. Here I must mention that the experts from Budget and Plan Organization and Office of Deprived Regions should make further inquiry into the situation in the central district of Baneh because although that district is a border area and war-stricken and deprived of the necessary resources and facilities and is clearly a deprived area in the eyes of most officials, yet it has been designated as a beneficiary district. God willing they would revise their opinion so that rights will not be lost and it will be a good border-keeper for dear Iran.

He also reminded the minister of the interior about the subject of destruction of the Sheikhayn Mosque in Mashhad. He said: Despite going through the legal phases, the payment of government mortmain, contacts by a number of deputies with the governor-general, correspondence by a number of deputies with the respected minister of the interior, this Mosque has gone to ruin, and this deterioration goes against the noble verses of the Koran, the traditions of the Prophet, and the guidance of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him). I will refrain from discussing details. God willing, the Ministry of the Interior will do what is in line with religious law and what conforms to the aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Saqiz va Baneh deputy said concerning the issue of the clergy:

The issue of the clergy in Kordestan is most important. The clergy can be a firm base for the government and a promoter of the prevailing culture. At this time, they have carried out their assigned responsibilities in the desired way, and have a priority of enjoining good and prohibiting evil in the mosques and schools and preventing youth from deviating and turning to other schools of thought, and more than 70 people have been martyred battling the mini-groups. Let us strive to strengthen them, let us give more careful attention and study to reports and rumors, lest they be a plan to weaken them. Let us strive to realize their rightful demands, give form to their needs and put their lives in order.

Continuing his remarks, Mohammad 'Ali Partovi discussed the fact that our Majles is the essence of the awakened nation, the policies of the Majles are the foundation of the high thought and great insight of our nation. He said: It is not just for the nation's supporters to be suspicious of the Majles without decisive proof and clear evidence. Suspicion will undermine the nation. For this reason we defend the clear answer of Haj Aqa Karrubi, respected Majles speaker, to the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers in order to preserve unity of speech and protect the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We give the good news to the noble, alert and Muslim nation of Iran that, as before, in a manner worthy of a true and Muslim servant, in answer to the need to glorify the Cause of God and observe the command "sympathize .ith God's people," we will not abandon the necessities of religious law and wisdom. This is our tradition in serving our dear people.

Sadeq Khalkhali, Qom Deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Sadeq Khalkhali, from the Qom electoral district.

He said: To cover up the disastrous defeat he had suffered at the hands of Islamic Iran and the imam of the nation, to compensate for the past, Saddam began an ill-considered invasion of Kuwait without seeking the cooperation of others. Not only will Saddam and the Ba'th of Iraq have to bear the burden of this disgrace for long years, but this was a humiliation for the Ba'th Party of Iraq. For this reason we note that Iraq's oppressed cities, north and south, have all revolted, are expressing their disgust, and have stood against the Ba'thist demons.

Just as the respected president of the republic said, Saddam must not make his record darker than before by mass slaughter of the oppressed nation of Iraq, he must leave the nation of Iraq free to determine its own fate in this crisis, and to purge itself of the humiliation, degradation and shame.

Khalkhali continued: Yesterday the expressive letter from His Holiness Mr. Karrubi, who bears the marks of suffering and deprivation on the one hand by Shari'atmadari's abuse and on the other by SAVAK torture, discussed issues in answer to the letter from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers. In truth, it cannot be called a letter, it is rather a manifesto that crystallizes one phase in the bright history of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I read this letter carefully and I had also already read the letter written by some of the seminary teachers. In fairness, however, they were most unjust. Gentlemen, when we want to make a claim, the clergymen know, the scholars know, even the seminary students, who also read the textbooks, know that we must collect all the evidence and then express ideas about the application of all this evidence in general about a Majles deputy. A majority of the deputies removed the requirement for practical commitment to Islam, because it was an unclear and obscure thing. They put in its place something very good and comprehensive, the same as the conditions required for the president of the republic. We must not ignore this, thinking that the people do not understand. The people are quite perceptive, and they are aware of all these stipulations and requirements. Yesterday afternoon someone who had seen both letters said to me, what sophistry is being brought into this. Of

course he also demagogically said he has nothing to do with that issue, but the reality is that to preserve the sanctity of the Islamic Republic of Iran we want deputies who follow the imam's line, who are not rigid, are not land-devourers, are not SAVAK members, are not supporters of the former government, etc., and who believe in the Islamic Republic of Iran. How is it true that if we remove this restriction it would mean opening the door for the Bani Sadrs and Moqaddam Maragheh'is? These are things one must answer to before Almighty God. It seems that the gentlemen have realized that they will not be that successful in future elections, and the alert people showed in the elections to the Assembly of Experts, just as Mr. Karrubi mentioned in two places, that they did not participate as they ought to do because the events were not going in the direction sought by many people. It was the same way with that thing. We must not create a public disturbance, we must not come and say yes, the exalted leader, I do not know, the president of the republic, here, there and over there they will not permit such a thing. Do we have the prerogatives of the leader? The leader decides, he implements, he orders and cancels, and we must obey. He will never be trapped by you. I state decisively that it is never the case that we want to exploit an official. It is surprising that Mr. Movahedi-Kermani raised this issue at the Friday prayer without concern as if he had not seen the letter at all. Why must one speak in this way? Why do you wish now to make the Friday prayer one-sided, and why are you calling the people this way, telling them, come and gather, what has happened, they are letting irreligious and irresponsible people into the Majles? We will bring that Majles down on the heads of those irresponsible people, and we will not let anyone into the Majles except those who follow the imam's line.

Movahedi-Kermani, Guidelines Notice

After the Qom deputy's talk, Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi-Kermani, Tehran deputy, citing Article 77 of the Majles Internal Guidelines, asked to defend himself. He said: Mr. Khalkhali clearly spoke my name, and said things that were not included in my remarks. What I said sincerely in my remarks prior to the Friday prayer sermons was that I analyzed the Majles, and there are some issues being raised in the Majles which are questionable to the people. Many issues are not questionable for the people, but some issues and proposals are questionable for the people, such as the deletion of the requirement of practical commitment to Islam from the Majles Election Reform Bill, and of course what Mr. Khalkhali said was proposed in this bill, that this condition should be removed, and what remains is the rest of the same law. I said something was put forward in this way and it is questionable. Many people have questioned me, and I have answered. Later I said that as one individual I oppose this deletion but I proposed to the Voice and Vision that they take a poll on issues like this that are questionable for the people and get the views of the people. This is a summary of what I said.

He added: He (Khalkhali) came and said that a commotion had been started and a controversy and slander against the Majles and things like this had been said. Then the Speaker of the Majles asked the Tehran deputy to read verbatim the statement from Mr. Khalkhali that had distorted his words but he [the Tehran deputy] defered that to the study of the tapes of proceedings.

Based on Article 77 of the Majles Internal Guidelines, if during the remarks of a pre-agenda speaker a disparaging remark is made directly or implied about a deputy, or if his ideas and statements are misrepresented, that deputy is permitted to speak out of turn at that session or at the next session.

'Abdollah Nowruzi, Malayer Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was 'Abdollah Nowruzi, Malayer deputy.

He began by discussing the uprising of the people of Iraq. He said: I expect the Muslim nation of Iraq to do as the Muslim people of Iran did, who stood against the corrupt, heavily armed regime of the shah and overthrew him. Now the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, although to some extent supported by foreigners, is at its weakest and most impotent, and with the slightest pressure the Muslim people of Iraq can cut off the roots of corruption of the Ba'th party.

He added: I was fortunate enough to go with His Holiness Ayatollah Karrubi to visit the Muslim and noble people of Pakistan as well as North Korea, and without exaggeration, all the attributes and virtues we seek in our own great nation also thrive in the lives and homes of the nation of Pakistan. Although I myself had a good image of the Islamic belief of the people of Pakistan, I never imagined that the depth of love for Islam, the imam and the Islamic Republic would permeate every fiber of the being of the people of Pakistan, so that the time spent traveling the short distance from the airport to the grave of their great leader, which was to last 20 minutes with the ceremonies, actually took four hours, and the people came to welcome us. This was exactly like the days of the heat of our own revolution. The people shared food, they had a prayer station, they shared water, and we saw all the characteristics we had in our own revolution and marches among the Muslim and noble nation of Pakistan, and this was the glory of the situation. The people, wearing headbands and shouting 'death to America', came to welcome the great Iranian delegation. All their characteristics showed the depth of their belief in Islam and the revolution.

There was nothing there but love for Islam and belief in the imam and the Islamic Republic, but the icing on the cake was the humility, sincerity and the attributes in the person of the speaker of the Majles.

He added: Unfortunately we heard that despite the efforts and struggles made by the Iranian photographers and reporters to record those glorious annals of Islam,

they were shown on our own television and radio in a bad light and in a brief and most unsatisfactory manner.

For me, as one who saw these events, it was truly painful when I heard this. The problem was not them settling accounts with Mr. Karrubi. It was not that these were personal views. The point was the glorification of Islam, for these were faces and scenes showing the greatness of Islam, the Islamic Republic and the sacred Islamic government in the world of Islam. It is regrettable and a real grievance that this issue was handled in this manner.

He added: Mr. Movahedi-Kermani said (of course I regard him as a prominent clergyman and consider myself a student of his) that apart from this issue, he did not collaborate with anyone and that these are his own personal views. On Friday as I was on my way I heard him on the radio speaking about this same question of practical commitment to Islam. I thought of something right then. In the study of management we deal with the topic of objectives, and in any case when we want to achieve an objective, it must be something that is achievable and can be quantified, it must be something that can be analyzed, and if the general idea of practical commitment is to be discussed without a clear idea of what it means in society, God forbid, the situation could create problems.

Ratifications

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's public Majles session states that after hearing the report on the first round of deliberations of the guidance and Islamic art committee concerning the bill to expand the Iran tourist industry, this bill was presented as the first item on the agenda and was approved by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the report from the administrative affairs and employment committee concerning the draft bill on internal guidelines for the national accounts tribunal, which has been returned from the the Council of Guardians. Two amendments to this bill were approved by the deputies.

Article 20 of this bill was amended in the following form:

The implementation guidelines for this law will be proposed within three months by the chief of the national accounts tribunal and will be approved by the administrative and employment affairs committee for five years according to Article 85 of the Constitution.

The following note will also be added to Article 21 of this bill:

Note: The additional financial burden incurred in implementing this law will be procured from legislated credits and by savings based on Article 14 of this law.

The third item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was the double-urgency motion to provide housing loans for former prisoners of war. After a vote was taken, the deputies approved single-urgency status for it.

According to the report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, as this session continued a discussion was held concerning the report from the second round of deliberations of the defense affairs committee concerning the revolution guard employment regulations bill, and three of its articles were approved.

Based on Article Two, the armed forces consist of the revolution guards, the army and the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to Article Three, the revolution guards consist of the General Revolution Guards Staff, the staff representatives of the chief jurisconsult in the revolution guards, the revolution guards intelligence organization, the ground, air and sea forces, and the mobilization and Quds [Jerusalem] resistance and their affiliated organizations.

Continued consideration of the details of the revolution guards employment regulations bill was deferred to the next Majles session.

The Majles will meet in public session tomorrow morning.

17 Mar Session

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[Text] **Report from yesterday's open session of the Majles.**

Legal and Parliamentary section - The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

During this session the deputies from Fuman, Arak, Quchan and Kashmar spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the Majles went into session and ratified as an urgent item the plan to change the salary steps of government employees.

Below is a text of the pre-agenda speeches and the bills passed by the Majles.

Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, people's deputy from Fuman: The security forces should not allow corrupt elements, who are always waiting for opportunities to infect society, to implement with various excuses, their evil intentions during the month of Ramadan, coinciding with the New Year

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, the people's deputy from Fuman and the village of Shaft. At the start of his speech he commented on the oil war in the Persian Gulf and said: Now that the people of Iraq have risen against their autocratic regime, which has sucked them

dry for years, dragging them through through two bloody wars, the criminal United States and its allies are not saying anything. This is the method of the criminal United States and its allies and is clear proof that they never consider the interests of the masses, but only think of their own interests.

He added: The United States should know that the Muslims of the world will not allow them to make their sweet dreams come true. Not only the Americans, but any other regime which is wearing the choker of colonialistic slavery should pay attention that today the masses are awake. The true Islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him—has opened the way and with ever greater determination, is removing cultural barriers and is going forth.

With regard to the holy month of Ramadan, the deputy from Fuman added:

Springtime coincides with the holy month of Ramadan, and nature's spring. This is the best opportunity to take advantage of with regard to propaganda. All respected speakers and great clergymen in all corners of the country, should speak about the revolution. They should talk to the people about the government that is eager to serve and the sensible policies that the government of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani adopted throughout the oil war. Other propaganda machines, such as the press and the Voice and Vision, during the holy month of Ramadan, should write articles and present programs that are coordinated with the policies set out recently by the great leader of the revolution, to carry out their propaganda policies. Especially the brothers at the Revolution Committees, the police and the gendarmerie should be even more aware because there are corrupt elements who are always waiting for an opportunity to infect society. They should not be allowed to carry out their evil intentions, using various excuses, during this time.

At the end of his remarks Mohammad Reza Shafi'i read out a series of notices addressed to executive officials, asking them to look into the problems faced by the flood victims of Mavaleh.

Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni, people's deputy from Arak: Removing the subsidy from the agricultural sector means stagnation and death in agriculture and the destruction of village wealth, resulting in villagers' migration to cities

Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni, deputy for the people of Arak who was using three minutes of the time allocated to the deputy from Fuman, made a short speech commenting on the coming holy month of Ramadan. He stressed:

Differences, two-sidedness and animosity are signs of hostility among disbelievers. Friendship, brotherhood and unity are signs of life among the faithful. This is why brotherhood, friendship and unity are promised to believers and I hope that it will be so.

He then said:

Keeping the faith and keeping the people are one and the same. The respected officials must try to take people seriously, to see themselves for the people and from amongst the people, not above them. This is why the aim has to be to provide what is best for society, to make people comfortable and make them satisfied. Since the prices of various items are linked to one another like a chain, a rise in prices in the name of making them more realistic, when coupled with a lack of control over prices, will cause unlimited inflation. This will be impossible to control and will create a situation like the one we have currently which is not to our advantage.

The speaker added:

In practice it seems that the gentlemen have summarized an over- all economic, cultural and social growth in terms of presenting lifeless standards which are removed from society. This one-sided way of looking at the country's culture and economy could be damaging.

Al-Hoseyni commented on the dangers of removing subsidies from the agricultural sector and said:

Unfortunately there are whispers being heard about removing the subsidies from the agricultural sector. Removing the subsidies from the agricultural sector will cause its stagnation and death and will mean the loss of revenue for villages resulting in villagers' migration to cities, with all the damage that this will have. We have to make agriculture attractive. We have to work on the produce and on paying subsidies that will guide and strengthen the sector. Our people are not different than the people of Saudi Arabia. By using subsidies, they managed to reach self-sufficiency in strategic agricultural goods. But unfortunately we have not been able to come very far.

The deputy from Arak concluded his speech by commenting on the United States taking advantage of the revolt staged by the people of Iraq and the oil war. He said: We think that after the bloody and inhumane opening which the United States staged in the region, it now wants to take maximum advantage. It wants a long-term presence for itself in the area, a change in the Iraqi regime, a puppet of its own in control of Iraq and in case it fails, it wants to achieve its goals through the disintegration of Iraq. This is why under these sensitive conditions, we must treat the issues dealing with the popular revolt in Iraq in a proper manner. Nonetheless we hope that the future regime of Iraq will be popular, without interference from outside elements, chosen only by the people of that country. But there is the danger that foreigners will take advantage, therefore we must be vigilant.

Mohammad Baqer Zakeri, people's deputy from Qachan: Friday prayer leaders must invite the people, through words and actions, to observe unity and piety more and more

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mohammad Baqer Zakeri from the constituency of Qachan.

He said: As one of those people who signed the plan to correct some clauses dealing with Majles elections I would like to reply to a letter from the council of theological teachers in Qom and comments made by some other gentlemen in the press and in other media which have caused misunderstanding. Although there is much to say, in order to clarify the issue, I will only mention a few important points.

In this regard he added: The law dealing with Majles elections was passed on 28 February 1984 with 79 items and 50 footnotes. It has so far been amended on four occasions: 10 March 1984, 11 April 1984, 5 June 1984, and 14 February 1988.

The proposal that is before the Majles now is the fifth amendment and if it were possible to use the letter from the Qom thoelogians, this plan is not a one-item proposal taking a few lines. It is not the case simply to remove the words "putting belief into practice" from the preconditions set for prospective Majles deputies. The plan that is put forth has 40 items of correction and repetition and about 30 footnotes added.

He added: The respected theologians in one part of their letter have expressed regret that the bill had been passed in full and in another section have said. "The nature of such a plan—will it not bring under question those who have signed it?" In reply I must say: First of all there is a big difference between those who drew up the plan and those who signed it and this is something that Majles deputies are aware of better than anyone else.

Second, with what logic and what sense should one not sign a plan or vote for one which has about 70 items and footnotes and dozens of points all necessary to ensure that Majles elections are held in a more popular manner, simply because there are a few mistakes? Many people who sign proposals know about the problems in them and in future stages they voice their disagreement with parts of what they have already signed for. Sometimes, after hearing the arguments of those against a proposal, they disagree with the proposal itself. As you all saw a few days ago the urgency to raise the price of gasoline was voted in with a large majority but in the next stage of the Majles proceedings, following the arguments of deputies against the plan, they did not vote for the proposal itself. So the theologians have brought into question those who have signed for the proposal in question for no reason at all. It is hoped that they will be brave enough to admit their own mistakes and to rectify them in any way they see fit.

Zakeri added: It has been said that the proposal which is bothering some of the theologians has dozens of [word illegible] points which will be made clear later. One of those points is noninterference of parties, groups and bodies in the fate of the elections in a constituency other than their own. This is what was about to be done in the elections for the Second Majles and the departed Imam prevented it. Another point which is inspired by the thoughts of the departed Imam is a reply to the secretariat of the Friday prayer leaders. It deals with a ban on any type of interference by the Friday prayer leaders in favor or against any of the candidates for the Majles. This is something that some of the prayer leaders did not pay attention to which brought them under question and damaged the unity of the entire group. Now instead of being a father to all, instead of spending all their time in guiding the people, instead of paying attention to the theological centers and their students, helping the mosques achieve their glory, instead of coordinating with officials to help the people in their area, unfortunately they have placed all their effort into political work, hiring and firing officials, only to see their candidate be elected to the Majles. So it is my request and the request of many of the other gentlemen from the secretariat of the Friday prayer leaders to ask the Friday imams to move in the direction drawn by the departed Imam and the great leader of the revolution, which is to invite people, by word and action to unity and piety and rejection of dissent and differences.

The deputy from Quchan continued: The respected theologians in their letter addressed to the respected speaker of the Majles, have among other things said: "We believe that the great leader and the memory of the imam will not allow the majority of the deputies to vote for such issues." In reply I will say, you believe that the respected leader and the memory of the imam will not allow the Majles to pass such plans including the proposal to correct the law dealing with Majles elections. We all know that if Majles bills are against the religion or against the Constitution, they will be rejected by the respected Council of Guardians. So what was the need for you to go to all that trouble to write such a letter, which I feel was very improper at this particular time, so that the respected speaker of the Majles is forced to write that reply? Others are also thinking about defending themselves. We now have conditions when the world and the whole region is in turmoil and uncertain, when the fate of Muslims in Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Afghanistan and other parts is uncertain. We have conditions when economic problems and other issues are bothering our dear people and our town and the result of all this becomes obvious in the elections held in Esfahan last Friday. Why have you done somthing so that instead of spending some time thinking and spending energy on constructive things and struggle against the evil United States, precious time and golden opportunities have been wasted in useless confrontations and verbal differences?

For me as a cleric it is more painful than anything else to see clergymen in such a state so as to have a statement in the name of the Islamic Associations of the Bazaar and Tehran Guilds printed in yesterday's RESALAT, leveling all sorts of insults against the respected head of the legislative power and the deputies chosen by the people. The plan put forth as a correction, which was approved, was said to be a disgraceful plan. Under the guise of support for the theologians and the Council of Guardians they are now shouting slogans for Islam.

Dear God, please do not pass more indignity unto us. Oh, hidden imam, we voice our complaints to you. Oh you rightful representative of the Hidden Imam, you dear leader of the revolution, we complain to you about stupidities and wicked actions.

Gentlemen of the so-called Islamic Associations of the Bazaar and Tehran Guilds, what business is it of yours to meddle into the affairs of the Majles and differences that may have arisen among the clergy? Is it the case that the theologians or the Council of Guardians do not have spokesmen? Then why have you become their spokesmen? Is it the case that Islam and the clergy have become so weak in an Islamic regime for you to have risen in their defense? If you believe in practical Islam and if you support this clergy go and implement the laws of Islam in your Bazaar. Go and stop high prices, stop merchants selling people short and stop hoarding, which are among the worse sins and only cause the people to think badly of Islam, the revolution, imam, the regime, God and the Koran. Go and sort out your issues to see what is right and wrong. With the excuse of keeping the dignity of some clergymen, do not take insults to the highest limits.

He added: The respected Friday imams, clerics, prayer leaders, propagandists and those who preach the words of islam, in this month of blessings and forgiveness, Ramadan, remember the comments of the dear leader in the first meeting of deputies in the second round of the Assembly of Experts.

In a part of his important remarks he said: What in my view are the duties of all, especially for legitimate personalities, 'ulema, clergymen and scientists, are three points. Under the present conditions these three points must be observed with utmost care and all programs have to be undertaken keeping these three points in mind. To ignore these three points today is really not right. The first point is the unity among the people. Who better than the legitimate 'ulema with their trained speech to guide the people to unity, strength and the togetherness which thank God exists now? Especially the respected Friday imams and those personalities who are known and who have a high standing in the Islamic society, you should not allow, none of the country's officials should allow those elements, who through ill will, or through ignorance want to create dissent, to divide the people into different groups.

They turn the people against one another. There are ways of doing things. One does not always get a result from fighting and threatening. One can gain results more by kindness and attracting peoples' hearts.

Respected theologians, was it not better to pay attention to the jewel-like and precious comments of the leader on 20 February? Only 10 days after those holy statements and nearing the holy month of Ramadan, which is a month of unity, prayer, training the soul and gaining piety, you should not have issued that statement against the Majles. It is not clear whether its consequences can be repaired. It would have been better if you had acted like all ministeries, organizations and personalities who voice their views with regard to proposals and bills by handing in their remarks to the relevant commissions and Majles deputies. Would it not have been better if you had acted in a fatherly way and had sent to the deputies your views and guidance, which would have no doubt been fruitful?

Ahmad Balukiyan, people's deputy from Kashmar: Those who gave emotional speeches about the Persian Gulf war, do they not see it necessary now to review those speeches?

Ahmad Balukiyan from the constituency of Kashmar was the fourth and last pre-agenda speaker at yeserday's open session of the Majles.

At the start he commented on the crisis in the Persian Gulf and said the wisdom of God has been one to show the trickery of the tricksters backfire against them in front of the amazed eyes of the whole world. He added:

The respected Government of the Islamic Republic obeyed the Faqih and adopted the correct decision. By staying away from and being aware of what the enemies of Islam had planned, they passed through a sensitive stage. There have been honors for the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to this wise choice and we achieved many of the lofty goals that we had set out to achieve. These include the rightful stance of the Islamic Republic in the world community and ever-increasing exportation of the Islamic revolution to such an extent that even our enemies have admitted their past mistakes and have disgraced themselves. With their words and their pens, our rightful position became known more. We thank God for this blessing.

He continued: As deputy for the people of Kashmar I say, those people who gave exciting and emotional speeches during the Persian Gulf war, do they not see it as necessary to review those speeches now? I ask them, respected brothers, what are the people of Iraq saying now? What are the people of Iraq fighting with now? What sort of treatment are Saddam and the Ba'th Party giving to their people now? God I ask you to give us proper understanding of issues.

In another section of his speech Balukiyan said: Keeping in mind the fact that elections for the Fourth Majles are getting near, it seems that there are some people who do not like calm and stability in society. They want to disrupt this by giving speeches and writing articles. I request that in order to please God and in order to keep the standing of our society in the international community, especially in the region, you should seriously stay away from any action that would cause tension and worry in society. It is hoped that keeping the interests of the regime in mind, other objectives can also be achieved.

It is also said sometimes that the Majles has been weakened. No. Thank God the Majles is making an

effort to carry out duties, just as the founder of the Islamic Republic and the leader of the revolution wanted. It is at the top of affairs. By passing laws, by issuing warnings, questions, impeaching, not giving a vote of confidence or giving a vote of confidence, it has kept a secure place for itself and has undertaken its actions and the there has been no problem for it.

He said an effective battle against narcotics depended on border control. He added:

Since taking tax is just, I request that officials should pay attention that this should be based on earnings and according to the law. There should be justice in imposing taxes because that would encourage taxpayers.

He reminded: The wish of our God-seeking people is that of the government, which is to perform the holy function of the hajj. I hope that it will be possible to do the religious-political function of hajj.

In conclusion he thanked Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Dr Jasebi, the head of the Open Islamic University for opening the Open Islamic University in Kashmar.

He also thanked Dr Zohur, the head of the Payam-e Nur [Message of Light] University, the head of the Majles arts and higher education commission and Dr Mo'in for giving permission for the establishment of the Payam-e Nur University in Kashmar.

Discussions

The only items on the agenda was looking into the urgency for a plan to "determine the working hours and the manner of paying government employees in 1991."

The first deputy against the plan was 'Abbas Sheybani, deputy from Tehran. In a speech he asked the Majles deputies that instead of raising salaries, which has inflationary effects, there should be facilities to give government civil servants the goods they need at a cheap price.

The first deputy in favor was Nur-ollah 'Abedi, deputy from Behbahan, who complained about the government's economic policies in his speech and defended the plan saying: This policy whereby we determine wages based on the U.S. dollar being 70 rials, but sell goods based on the dollar being 100 rials, 800 rials or 600 rials is contradictory.

'Ali Reza Farzad, the deputy from Taft, spoke in opposition saying: Although I do not disagree with what is in the plan, and I do disagree with some of the points, I believe that at the end of the year something basic should be done to at least meet some of the expectations raised.

Gholam 'Ali Saleh-abadi was the second deputy to speak in favor who said in a part of his speech: The government and the judicial system have had no control over inflation or prices. There has been a serious confrontation with hoarders or those who sell at high prices. Therefore, by passing this law, one must help the civil servants.

The third deputy to speak in opposition was Yadollah Eslami, the deputy from Baft near Kerman. He commented on the problems of the last bill passed by the Majles and said: When you have approved to pay the sum of 20,000 rials in the last six months of the current year, in reality you are setting a difference between those who are eligible to become civil servants, those employees which come under special laws and you are also causing confusion and uncertainty among contract and part-time employees. In order to stop prejudice and in order to get something done that would also solve the problem of government workers, we should pass the bill to coordinate pay scales.

Karim Shafe'i, deputy from Marand, was the third to speak in favor of the plan. He said the passing of the bill would help the expenses of the civil servants and said it will confirm previous Majles rulings. He added: In next year's budget there is a credit of 500 billion rials to increase the salaries of civil servants. If this proposal is not passed, in reality it means this new credit will also be boycotted.

The fourth deputy to speak against the plan was 'Ali Movahedi Savoji, deputy from Saveh. He commented on the presentation of a proposal to coordinate salaries of government employees and requested that this be reviewed by the Majles as soon as possible so that something basic can be done to solve the problems of government employees. He said some deputies are saying that the government is against the civil servants and the Majles in favor of them and added that this was dangerous and wrong. He continued: All sectors of the regime are in favor of government employees and not just one segment.

The fourth deputy to speak in favor of the proposal was 'Ein-ollah 'Alla', deputy from 'Ali-abad, near Katval who talked about the decreasing purchasing power of the people. He said: The purchasing power of the vulnerable classes must match the economic factors and inflation. This proposal is in this general trend, will relieve pressure and is useful.

'Ali Rahim Yusef-pur the people's deputy from Ardel and Farsan was the fifth deputy to speak against the plan. In a section of his speech he said: When we ask our dear colleagues why you keep going abroad, in reply they say they want to study post-war economics in various countries such as Korea and so forth. He added: So what is the result of all these Majles deputies going abroad? Was the result one that the entire makeup of a nation can be changed with an urgent plan through the Majles in a few hours?!

Yusef-pur added: The entire government and Majles make an effort to help the oppressed. But unfortunately there are some who play political games. They say we were for the plan, but there were others that were against it.

'Abbas 'Ali Zalli, deputy for the people of Karaj, was the fifth deputy to speak in favor of the plan. He said the proposal by some deputies who were against the plan

with regard to lowering of prices was impractical. He stressed the necessity to pass urgently the plan to coordinate the pay mechanism. He said: In any case something has to be done to solve the problems of the consumers and the various sectors of society. Just raising the hopes of government workers toward an uncertain future is not right.

The last deputy to speak against the plan was Gholam 'Ali Shahraki deputy from Zabol. In speaking against the proposal he said: Important and fate-determining legislation should not enter the scene of political tensions. It would be much better if they are dealt with fairly. These plans and bills cannot take decisions for the Majles, the government or any other body in 24 or 48 hours. Our administrative machine needs deep analysis. One of the tools of our administrative system is the pay and the bonus pay which are paid to government workers. If it is to be the case that moves in 24 or 48 hours can change our administrative machinery, if these things can change the situation of civil servants, why have you not changed this during all this time? This is the question that the people, the workers and government employees are now asking us.

He commented on the bill for 1991 which had given enough funds to give a pay raise of 20,000 to government employees next year, which was rejected by the deputies. He said: You rejected the 20,000 rials but now you seek to bring in 30,000 rials? Why did you not think this way 1 month ago and why have you suddenly changed your mind by 180 degrees? Do you not think that some of the deputies may think you are engaging in political work, rather that something that is right and basic to solve the problems of the country?

The people's deputy from Zabol commented on the government's current programs and said: The policies undertaken by the government, were they approved in the Five-Year Plan by the government or by us? Go back once and check to see who has ratified them. The things that we have already passed, if the government were to implement them, you would make even more noise. We ourselves at present will pass bills worth 50 billion, 100 billion and 70 billion. On the one hand you say why is the government selling hard currency at 70 rials? These two things do not match. The things that have to be carefully thought out, are not thought about at all, but when we want to do something in one office the Majles will take two months to pass the bill!

He also said: If we wanted to do good work we would not keep government legislation for six months.

The last deputy to speak in favor of the plan was Mr Qazi-zadeh Hashemi, deputy from Fariman, Sarakhs and Ahmad-abad. In a speech he rejected the idea that there was political handling of a government bill. Commenting on the low purchase power of civil servants, he asked that this plan be passed to help the government employees.

Then 'Ali Mohammad Gharibani, the head of the Majles commission in charge of administrative and personnel affairs, and one of the deputies who signed the plan, said the aim of the bill was to fill the legal void next year. He said this would clarify the government's position until the bill coordinating the pay mechanism could be passed. He said: Since the Majles bill giving a raise of 20,000 to government employees was only legal for the last 6 months of the year, in order for this sum to continue to be paid, we have put forth this plan.

Then Mansur Razavi, deputy president and head of the national administrative and personnel office gave a speech saying: At the beginning of the current year the government handed to the Majles a bill to change the rise in salary steps for government employees. There was also the government suggestion to increase civil servants' pay by 20 percent in a gradual manner, which was in effect the first step so that if God is willing, the entire issue could be analyzed carefully in the bill to coordinate the pay mechanism which has now been presented to the Majles. But why should basic raises done quietly be turned into this gradual increase in this manner?

He said: Any increase should match other economic factors and such raises will no doubt have inflationary effects. If we are to do something for the government civil servants, it should at least be something that would be substantial.

The deputy president said: In the budget the government had placed a footnote giving a continued raise to government employees, but this footnote was removed by the Majles. At the moment it has ratified this bill for this increase to continue, which if accepted, will be presented to the Majles as an urgent item so that the pay increase of 20,000 rials can continue to civil servants. This is why the government is against this bill.

Then the general the bill was put to a vote and was passed.

With the general bill passed, some of the deputies suggested that Item 1 of the bill, which determines the weekly working hours for government civil servants, reducing the hours from 44 to 40, be removed. This was put to a vote and passed.

There was also a suggestion from several members of the Majles commission in charge of administrative and personnel affairs with regard to the manner of changing the salary scales to replace the one in the plan. This was put to a vote and was accepted.

According to Item 1 of the bill, the basic salary of formal government employees covered by the law dealing with employment in the country, is equal to the result of multiplying a portion of the wages as mentioned in article 33 of the personnel law. The basic salary is based on the level of education completed and the relevant group linked to the table mentioned below which replaces the table of salaries mentioned in Article 32 of the personnel law.

Completed primary level and below	- 1 - 380
Completed secondary school	- 2 - 430
Completed secondary school	- 3 - 470
Completed high school	- 4 - 510
Completed high school	- 5 - 550
Post-high school graduate	- 6 - 600
Post-high school graduate	- 7 - 650
Bachelor decree	- 8 - 710
Master's degree	- 9 - 770
Master's degree	- 10 - 830
Doctorate	- 11 - 810

Footnote 1—The figures between the numbers of following groups after 11 will be increased by 60.

Item 2—From 21 March 1991 the salary of civil servants each year will be determined keeping in mind the accepted level of their service the previous year, as listed below:

(The level of the yearly increase plus 1) the previous year's salary would equal the salary every year.

The basis of the yearly increase would be the value of the workers and will be 3, 4 and 5 percent.

Footnote 1—The civil servants whose pay is adjusted according to this law will receive for every year of service up until March 1990 an increase equal to 3 percent in the relevant groups which are determined by their level of education.

Also Item 10 says: From 21 March 1991 the salary of judges will be determined as such:

Pay is equal to multiplication of salary (basic pay plus the added years of service and the past acceptable service.)

It is worth mentioning that the mentioned proposal was put forth by the Majles commission for administrative and personnel affairs which was placed on the agenda of the Majles under the title of changing the salary steps of government employees.

Razavi, deputy president and Nurbakhsh, minister of economy and finance objected to the proposal of the Majles commission for administrative and personnel affairs and announced that it would not be possible to implement it in 1991. They also announced that this plan would cause serious problems with regard to paying the basic salaries of government employees as well.

It is worthy of note that if passed by the Council of Guardians the proposal will become law.

* 19 Mar Session

91AS0778A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
25 Mar 91 p 5

[Excerpts]

Report of the Last Public Session of the Majles for the Year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] Legal and Majles Department—The final public session of the Majles for the year 1369 was convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

At this session, the deputies from Kordkuy, Sanandaj, Kazerun, and Shiraz spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the Majles took up its agenda. The only item on the agenda was the double-urgency motion to change the salary tables for government workers, and since the vote at the previous session was voided, the matter was discussed again and several of its articles were approved. Likewise, in this session the bill on procedures for issuing property ownership documents whose recorded documents have disappeared because of war or unexpected events such as earthquakes, floods, and fires was returned to the Expediency Discernment Council because of disagreement with the Council of Guardians.

Printed below for our esteemed readers are the comments by the pre-agenda speakers.

Besanjideh, Kordkuy Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker at last Tuesday's public Majles session was Besanjideh, Kordkuy deputy. During his talk he offered congratulations on the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan and the approach of the new year. He expressed the hope that in the coming year all the exalted goals of Islam will be realized, that deprivation will be relieved and that relative welfare will be provided for the entire Hezbollah nation.

He continued by saying:

Today, with the collapse of the walls of Communism, the East has lost its luster and the world's oppressed and deprived people have properly perceived the extent to which the phrase, "Neither East nor West, Islamic Republic" is the proper basis and foundation for independence. The fatherly positions of our late imam have caused Islam to create fresh hopes in the hearts of the world's deprived people. Naturally the Islamic Republic of Iran is the light, the guide, and the leader for these hopes. It is necessary for the government's workers to understand the vital importance of their role and guard the sanctuary of Islam in Iran and in all parts of the world with the guidance of the exalted leader.

[Passage omitted on U.S. role in Gulf war].

Elsewhere in his talk, the Kordkuy deputy discussed the weighty mission of the Majles. He said: In view of its weighty mission in the legislative position, the Majles makes laws in such a way that any form of ambiguity is eliminated in the execution of the laws, so that, God forbid, delays and changes according to personal opinion at various positions are avoided. In this world filled with turmoil, deceit and trickery, all those concerned about the revolution and the imam must come together around the primary areas of focus so that no hope will be given to the strangers and cowardly people of the age who are waiting in ambush. Let the members of the house of the

nation exercise strong supervision constantly over the implementation of each bill and law they have enacted as they are being enforced by capable and committed officials and managers, so that the numerous problems of the noble people of Iran will be reduced. In this regard, officials and managers must assiduously avoid any kind of approach based on personal taste, so that the laws in this divine society will prevail in full force.

As regards office appointments, he said: The respected officials who are in charge of appointments in the ministries, especially the Ministry of Education and Training, in seeking to attract the needed specialists and personnel, must make a special effort to employ native manpower from various parts of the country. Likewise, to attract native manpower, the ministries must act through management in the various areas.

The speaker added:

The development and economic reconstruction of our Islamic land demands the comprehensive participation of all the people. In this regard priority must be given to the nation's fundamental projects which prepare for the growth of industry and domestic production. These include the major projects in steel and mining, the great water storage and delivery projects, projects to improve the major road networks, and others. Executive officials must strive to alleviate the problems and obstacles to progress so we can activate latent abilities and talents and, through the power and strength of God and our national determination, release the nation from dependence and foreigners. In view of the great need for a strong communications network on land and sea with the outside world, I propose that a stronger foundation be given for the nation's northern docks project so that through the Caspian sea and the navigable rivers in our neighbor nation to the north, we can have a communications canal like that of the nations possessing technology.

He also called for opening the border points to the east of the Province of Mazandaran to trade with the Muslims in the Soviet republics.

At the end of his talk, the Kordkuy deputy discussed the problems in his electoral district and gave reminders to officials.

Morteza Zarringol, Sanandaj Deputy

Morteza Zarringol, Sanandaj deputy, who used three minutes of the Kazerun deputy's time, in his pre-agenda speech discussed remarks made by our late imam. He expressed the hope that in the new year the nation of Iran will act in the manner of the prophets and saints and that base passions will be eliminated.

In his talk he said:

[Passage omitted on previous year's accomplishments, U.S. Gulf activities, Saddam].

He said to the Muslim nation of Iraqi Kordestan: The time has come for you to take vengeance on Saddam and the Ba'th party for children who lost their fathers and mothers who lost their children in the Halabcheh disaster. The cry for vengeance can still be heard from every inch of the bloody soil of Halabcheh. Just as was told to us in glad tidings from our late imam, Saddam will not survive. You must attack the infidel army without a moment's hesitation. God has given the glad tidings of triumph for the oppressed. I call upon you Kurdish soldiers to join your brothers as soon as possible, make the Islamic revolution of Iran your model in unity with the Muslim groups, reliance on Almighty God under the banner "there is no other god but God," and without placing reliance or hopes on the West or the East. You must extinguish the last breath of life from Saddam and the Ba'th party through reliance on God and obedience of the commands of the leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the Moslem cause, who wields in his hand, like Moses, the cane of the great imam, and bears on his shoulders the burden of liberating the oppressed, and before whom lies the imam's bloody line for the rule of God and the elimination of world atheism.

In conclusion, the Sanandaj deputy brought up some reminders for the officials.

Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadianfar, Kazerun Deputy

Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadianfar, from the Kazerun electoral district, was the third pre-agenda speaker.

He said: On the threshold of the month of God, the month of purification, the month when Satan is put in chains, under conditions when the concealed and open cultural, economic, military, management, propaganda, and information plots of the Satans ruling the world are waging an unprecedented assault against the world Muslim movements, especially in the sacred lands of Islam, what meaning is there in an attack of the same intensity on the center of all powers and laws [the Majles], an attack on the most populist establishment of the sacred Islamic government, especially against the brave leader Ruhollah [Khomeyni]?

He added: Yesterday [during the time of the Shah], the establishment of a spy nest [the American embassy], led to the martyrdom of the bravest spiritual children of the imam's line. God forbid that we may be at the threshold of the opening of another spy nest [reopening the American embassy] in which most of the representatives of the people, these pure lovers of the path of our late imam, should be butchered. Certainly the brave and heroic people, the committed government, the pillars of the government and the movement, the elected servants of the people, and at the head of all of them the alert leader of the Islamic revolution, will thwart all the complex open and concealed plots of Zionism and the mercenaries and agents of imperialism. Those whose methods and thinking about solving the government economic and social problems of the people who have been

oppressed for centuries are more backward than the prevailing theories in the animalistic life of the East and the West, those who are hundreds of light years away from the theories on material and spiritual matters inspired by the pure Islam of the Imam, those who caused intense pain to the imam and his peerless nation from the month of Khordad 1342 [22 May-21 June 1963] to the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], those who collaborated on intelligence with the Zionists and monarchists in Iran, seeking to discredit the imam's ideas and radiant views, and worse, to make them appear different than they are, those whose work in the past was done under mysterious guises, and who now, even worse than in the past, are seeking to isolate, damage and slander Khomeyni's followers and leaders in all the government organizations, it would be better if such people did not speak of practical commitment to Islam and Velayat-e Faqih [guardianship of the chief jurisconsult]. God willing, Khomeyni's brave children, these courageous and proud followers of the unity of Abraham, will use the powerful sledges to shatter the colorful idols of monarchist and American Islam, and they will alertly pursue, identify, and present to the people those leaders of the Zionist-Mafia who disturb and incite public opinion and tarnish the names of people. Practical commitment to Islam is where in economic matters we take the great volume of financial, monetary and human capital out of the commerce and trade sector and use it in the agricultural and industrial sectors, and to procure what is needed by Iranian society and the Muslim world.

Practical commitment to Islam is when we establish a tax system where that minority with a larger income, indeed tens and hundreds of times more, and who make greater use of society's resources, pay a progressively larger share of their income to the majority of society, so that one of the basic steps toward social justice will be taken.

Practical commitment to Islam is where those who violate the sanctity of the commands and decrees of His Holiness the imam and his thoughts and aspirations are punished, and where the hands of those who spread rumors, incite public opinion and tarnish the names of people, are cut off everywhere. Practical commitment to Islam is where the clergy committed to Islam are economically independent from a special class of society so they can deliver to the oppressed and deprived of the world the message of independence, freedom, liberation, and salvation and make them drink from the elixir of "there is no God but Allah" without pressure and hostility from those hungry for money, and without the influence of those in various positions.

Practical commitment to the Velayat-e Faqih is where a system is in place under which the people are so satisfied with the justice of Islam that if the slightest danger threatens the government and the Islamic movement, they will sacrifice all their being for the government. In such a system, all the people would consider themselves participants in determining their own fate, in such a way that in the words of the late imam, a thirteen year-old's sacrifices become the model for the leaders.

Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Nezhadianfar added: Practical commitment to Velayat-e Faqih is not something new. If the clergy and society's current officials had properly obeyed Ruhollah [Khomeyni], the Vali-e Faqih [the chief jurisconsult] of the Age, who himself obeyed God absoluetly and was annihilated in God and detached from this world and the next, from the month of Khordad 1342 [22 May- 21 June 1963] to the month of Khordad 1368 [22 May-21 June 1989], today we would have had hundreds and thousands of Vali-e Faqihs in the society and were benefitting from them in the world of Islam. Unfortunately, however, those whose shortcomings were most during that period, are the ones who are making the most noise about practical commitment to Velayat-e Faqih. The guardianship [Velayat] of the chief jurisconsult, of Koran, of the saints and prophets, and finally of God Himself is so that human beings would not be trapped in the guardianship of Satan and the devil, and so that they could reach absolute divine guardianship, meaning absolute submission to God, which is the aim of the creation of the world and which leads to perfect happiness of humanity. However, we have all seen that in the past the gentlemen have appointed individuals to the most key positions in such a way that individuals were permitted to pass through their screening who were worse than the devil, while people who were higher than the angels and were worthy were eliminated.

Practical commitment to Velayat-e Faqih is when the political, economic, judicial, cultural and social systems are so designed and executed that the values of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), meaning rule by the friends of God instead of the friends of Satan, rule in the service of the servants of God, not where we act in such a way that, God forbid, the religious feudal system rules in place of the monarchical feudal system, with the plots of the supporters of Americanized Islam, so that with the implementation of their justice, no one will mention [criticize] any longer the names of Reagan, Begin, and Anushirvan [an ancient just monarch whose reputation for justice is challenged by some people]. Practical commitment to Islam is where we protect the real and lawful rights of human beings so that the rights of all will be inviolable.

Continuing, he said: I call upon the Hezbollah nation to ask the gentlemen about those who wrote that letter laced with curses on the imam who [himself] said the letter was [the same as the one] from the Freedom Front with the addition of curses. Who regarded the imam's decree as not being in accordance with the fundamentals of jurisprudence? Who questioned the matter of practical commitment to Velayat-e Faqih on the basis of master-servant [Sufism] argument, and tens of other questions that were raised in the logical and documented answer written by the respected speaker of the Majles His Holiness Ayatollah Karrubi?

Rasul Montakhab-Niya, Shiraz Deputy

The fourth and final pre-agenda speaker at the public Majles session was Rasul Montakhab-Niya from the Shiraz electoral district.

He expressed his disgust with the slaughter of the defenseless people of Iraq by the Ba'thist regime and asked God to give victory to the Muslim nation of Iraq.

Continuing, Montakhab-Niya said: During the lifetime of His Holiness the imam (may Almighty God be pleased with him) and after his death we saw that His Holiness the imam and later the exalted leader continued to exhort the people to be united, and he warned them against factionalism and discord. Unfortunately, it is evident that some people, deputies and others, are trying to break up and divide the Islamic nation. In other words, they are trying to keep the fires of discord burning. I realize how some of the gentlemen benefit from adventurism and creating disturbances among the people. In the old days we heard that it was British policy to "divide and conquer." We did not expect our friends to do the same thing, by encouraging these differences during the lifetime of His Holiness the imam and especially not after his death. We see that every time an important issue arises in the country and forces must be mobilized, when the people must be mobilized to fight the enemy, an issue is raised in the Majles, in speeches, or in some of the sacred gatherings, and they agitate and disturb the people, making them think they are losing everything, often causing some of them to despair and lose hope. This is cause for concern. During His Holiness the imam's lifetime our friends sowed discord and the imam repeatedly warned them, and unfortunately they did not listen. After his death we expected them to extend the hand of sincerity and brotherhood to the other friends of the revolution and not sow discord, but unfortunately we have seen that all or most of the discord arises from and begins with those friends.

He added: An issue that has arisen recently in the country as the most important one, even more important than the struggle with America and the savage slaughter of the people of Iraq by the Ba'thist regime, which has filled the pages of the newspapers and occupied discussion at the sacred gatherings, is the matter of amending the Majles deputies election law. Just as the Muslim nation knows, the Constitution allows the deputies to enact laws, express views, and when they express their views no one has the right to prosecute them. These are Articles 84 and 86 of the Constitution. Every deputy is responsible to the entire nation, and has the right to express views on all domestic and foreign issues.

On the basis of Article 86, while fulfilling their duties as representatives, Majles deputies are completely free in the expression of opinions, and one may not prosecute or reprimand them because of views they have expressed in the Majles or in fulfilling their responsibilities.

A number of the deputies have worked hard, they have seen that the Majles Election Law needs amending. They have amended it, and the overall package has been approved in the Majles and has been sent to the expert committees. It is not clear which of the amendments will remain and which will be eliminated. Unfortunately, from the very first day they leveled infidelity accusation against the drafters and legislators, they began making difficulties for them and raising a hue and cry. The people are saying, what happened, God forbid that the government has been lost, God forbid that Islam has been lost, they are so agitated and upset.

He added: Nothing has happened, it is being studied and discussed in the committees, it is coming to the Majles and what the gentlemen are proposing will either remain or not remain. It is the Majles deputies who must have the last word. After that the respected Council of Guardians will give its view, if necessary the Expediency Discernment Council will give its view, and above all else there is the exalted leader, and if there remains a danger to Islam, he will intervene, just as His Holiness the imam intervened at times when it was necessary. Therefore, creating a disturbance in this way is not appropriate and such a thing is not expected from some prominent people. I am now judging prominent people by different standards than others (just as was mentioned in the letter from the respected speaker of the Majles).

Continuing, the Shiraz deputy said: The removal of the phrase "practical commitment" is not the issue, that is a pretext for something else. I say to you, the respected deputies, the Muslim and sacrificing nation, this is the same Majles that in three terms, especially in the third term, expelled individuals for having weak religion, even those who had been confirmed by the Council of Guardians and the executive councils. I now have no objection if some of our friends have come to defend them, wishing to make factional use of them. We expelled them because their religion was weak. This Majles will never permit corrupt people to come into it. These Majles deputies are religious deputies. They represent the thinking of the nation. How can they make the excuse that with the phrase "practical commitment" removed a final blow has been dealt to Islam? If Islam can be killed in this way, then our thinking is quite wrong. First of all, this idea is not the definitive legislation, and secondly, there are still the Council of Guardians and the leader and they give their views. Therefore, this is no more than a pretext. The people must realize that it is not a matter of Islam and infidelity. They have used this as an excuse to settle accounts and raise other issues.

He added: I ask those who have raised this issue and are aggravating it to desist, to extend the hand of unity to one another and be united during the blessed month of Ramadan, especially in the sacred public gatherings. Especially in the month of grace, the clergy and religious authorities must call the people to unity, harmony and piety, not raise these issues. Where is the practical commitment to Islam in what you are saying? Give your views you dear brothers, respected preachers, esteemed religious

authorities, and respected clergymen. Where is the practical commitment to Islam in this? Why should someone, who wants to promote concern for Islam and questions the deletion of the phrase "practical commitment," makes accusations? Why should he speak in violation of religious law? Especially in the blessed month of Ramadan, these things are most ugly and despicable, and it is not expected that our friends would say these things. This was stated repeatedly during the lifetime of His Holiness the imam, may Almighty God be pleased with him. We ourselves have said that factional interests do not come ahead of the interests of the revolution. Do not weaken the lawful organizations, do not weaken public figures. Do not violate the sanctity of the leadership. There were some friends during the lifetime of His Holiness the imam who violated it, and if there was a movement to discredit and destroy the leadership in our country, it was started by some of our friends, they took liberties with the imam and made it common to discredit and destroy the leadership. We now say to you not to try to discredit and destroy the leadership, dear brothers, the exalted leader is above us all.

Insulting, weakening, using verbal subtleties, all these things are accusatory and weakening. This is a fact. The chiefs of the three branches of government must not be weakened.

Sacred organizations such as the Majles must not be weakened. O dear brothers, you who attack a figure such as Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Karrubi, who do you think will be made stronger if Mr. Karrubi is weakened, other than the counterrevolution? Other than the opportunists? Do we have very many people in the country like Mr. Karrubi? Who is laughing in my face and in yours? Why do you not pay attention? You must not attack the Majles, as a sacred organization. What business do some of the trade guilds and brothers have coming and insulting the Majles, accusing the deputies, and especially the respected speaker of the Majles, the third-ranking person in this country? Let them go and sell their chick peas and beans, let them go and do their own work. Let them go and prevent abuses. Let them go and stop monopolies. If they are unhappy because the Guilds Council was dissolved, because they have lost the Guild Affairs Committee, that the Chamber of Commerce has turned out this way, they must not seek revenge from the Majles, in any case, the truth is that the deputies voted.

Just as was mentioned in the letter from the respected speaker of the Majles, there are some prominent people who do not realize that there are corrupt people hiding under their very noses. You must recognize these intermediaries. Do not let them cause corruption. Who wrote these cursing letters which are reminiscent of the cursing letters to His Holiness the imam? They are not from the clergy, they are not from the seminary teachers, they are not from the religious scholars, they are from those who are hiding behind them and speak out.

He added: I will say a few words also to the respected Friday imams, who are our friends. The Friday imam is the father of a city, the father of a country, the Friday imam must not get drawn into these issues. Now that you have started, what will you do during the elections?

You have reprimanded and punished the Majles deputies so much that you say they must be punished in their electoral districts. What you are saying is a violation of religious law. It violates the Constitution, it violates the commands of the imam and the exalted leader. You must be the pivot point. We expected some of our friends to be a protective shield for [government] branches, as they were elsewhere, and not to take a position. Therefore we hope that in this blessed month of Ramadan and month of grace, all will be called to unity. I urge the exalted leader to put an end to these issues, do not permit these problems to increase. If this one set of issues is going to enlarge, what differences will develop in the country by the time the Majles elections are held?

Statement from Majles Deputies Condemning Slaughter of Iraqi People

Our correspondent reports that at the end of the public Majles session a statement signed by more than 160 Majles deputies was read condemning the slaughter of the people of Iraq by that country's Ba'thist regime. The text is as follows:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Think not that God doth not heed the deeds of those who do wrong. He but giveth them respite against a day when the eyes will fixedly stare in horror [Koran 14:42].

The merciless slaughter of the innocent, Muslim, oppressed people of Iraq throughout the war, whether by criminal America or by the Ba'th Party of Iraq, has wounded the hearts of all Muslims and zealous and tormented human beings. Not a day passes when the Aflaq [Michel Aflaq, Ba'th party founder] party of Iraq led by Saddam does not destroy the great human and material wealth of Muslims, with the calculated assistance of criminal America, which is trying to destabilize and disturb the area. The appearance of these Satanic and destructive activities at this sensitive historical juncture has given a heavy burden of responsibility to all Muslims, to recognize their false leaders who have led society astray for years in the guise of Islam and Islamic values and to stand with all their power against the criminal plans of these mercenary agents, because not only have these criminals never been mindful for a moment of the Muslims, but to protect their Satanic interests, they are trying to give Eastern and Western imperialism a foothold in the region.

Is the appearance of these calculated activities not enough to awaken the Muslims? Must they again wait for a destiny determined by the imperialists, while they themselves have no action, no plan, and no calculated program? Are not the support of Israel by irresolute mercenaries and the crimes of the Saudi family and criminal Saddam an instructive lesson for all of us? Have you forgotten the torment that was visited upon

oppressed and zealous Iran during the imposed war? The Koran says, "let not the unbelievers think that our respite to them is good for themselves: we grant them respite that they may grow in their iniquity; but they will have a shameful punishment." [Koran 3:178]

We Majles deputies, affirming anew the decisive action taken by the exalted leader, who declared a public mourning on the eve of the blessed month of Ramadan, condemn the dangerous policies of America and the Ba'th party of Iraq and emphasize the necessity to preserve the entire territory of Iraq and to defend the zealous and oppressed Muslims of Palestine. We warn the army of Iraq, which has come into being with enormous capital from the people, do not make your burden of guilt so heavy for yourself before God, conscience and history. Stop killing the oppressed people of Iraq in the north and the south, and in particular you must withdraw from the shrines at Karbala and Najaf and join the people. Learn from the repetition of history and know that the oppressed nation of Iraq will no longer tolerate violations of the commands of God from its nation. "Indeed God will never change the condition of a people until they change it themselves." [Koran]

* 3 April Session

91AS0823A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Apr 91 p 5 [Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—The first public Majles session for the year 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] convened yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

At this session, after remarks by the deputies from Tehran, Aligudarz and Khalkhal, the Majles took up its agenda, continuing and completing its consideration of the draft bill to change the wage table and payment regulations for government and judicial employees.

At yesterday's session Maryam Behruzi, Tehran deputy, read the text of a warning from a number of deputies concerning the elimination of the phrase "practical commitment to Islam and the system" as a qualification for becoming a candidate for the Majles.

Printed below are the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers and the Majles ratifications.

Maryam Behruzi, Tehran Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Maryam Behruzi, from the Tehran electoral district.

She commemorated the birth anniversary of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (peace be upon him) and the anniversary of the establishment of the government of the Islamic Republic. With reference to the disastrous slaughter of the people of Iraq, she said:

The international organizations and the supporters of so-called human rights are maintaining a posture of indifference and silence, and they are showing no reaction of any kind to the savage slaughter and blood bath that Saddam and the Ba'th party have started. As if it was not enough for them to violate the sanctity of the holy shrines, the religious scholars and the clergy, and most importantly of all, to insult His Holiness Ayatollah Khoei and the position of the source of emulation, the Ba'th forces attacked the sacred shrine of His Holiness 'Ali (peace be upon him), broke down the gate to the immaculate courtyard and martyred those taking refuge in the noble shrine. The hearts of Muslims and all the world's freedom-loving people have been broken by Saddam's bloody crimes, because of the relentless slaughter of the oppressed and unprotected people of Iraq.

Continuing, she added: Is it not the time for the naive people who have been fooled by Saddam's tricks to recognize his crocodile tears for what they are and apologize to the people who were about to be sold up the river? Should they not take this as the best reason to follow the leadership of the exalted leader, this wise commander and spoiler of American plots? Should everyone not join the Hezbollah nation in strengthening the government and supporting and assisting the insightful and striving government of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi? Of course the people have found the channel for their action and they are advancing along the path the imam has delineated. They are guarding the Islamic government with all their being, and they are watching all the movements. Now if Shiraz deputy, in defending one group, wishes to reprimand a number of people for the crime of supporting the rightful position of the clergy of Islam and the respected Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, and advise that the guilds stick to buying and selling chick peas and beans, then no doubt the students should stick to studying and the educators should stick to teaching and training. The women ought to stick to housekeeping and their own affairs, and naturally the seminary students ought to stick to studying, discussing and reciting epic poetry about Karbala and leave the nation's politics to the elite. Yet this is not the way. Our late imam told the people, this government belongs to you, you must defend Islam.

She then read the text of a warning from a number of deputies concerning the elimination of the phrase "practical commitment to Islam and the system" as a qualification for becoming a candidate for the Majles, as follows:

"I fear that the propaganda for persons who do not believe in Islam and the Islamic Republic and whose actions and words have shown this in the last year and who are now positioning themselves as supporters of Islam and Muslims to sabotage and create a disturbance in the sacred Majles is having an effect on some in the nation and on the pure-hearted youth. I fear that they will vote for people who are basically opposed to the interest of Islam and the Islamic Republic." These words are taken from a statement by Imam Khomeyni "may God sanctify his chaste soul" issued on 12/21/1358 [12 March 1980] before the first Majles elections.

Despite all his confidence in the noble Iranian nation, the founder of the Islamic Republic did not consider it impossible for people to come into the Majles who lack commitment to Islam and the Islamic Republic, and he declared his concern. On the basis of this anxiety the legislative power considered the requirement for practical commitment to Islam and the system of the Islamic Republic in all its key government appointments in the course of its law-making, and the qualification "practical" exists even for candidates for election to the the Islamic rural councils. I do not know what has happened now, that this requirement should be lifted. Who is bothered by the requirement for practical commitment to Islam and the system? If this can be called the beginning of a movement to damage Islam, have we gone astray? If this requirement is eliminated, can the Majles still be called the essence of the nation's best? If deputies find their way into the Majles who do not meet the requirement for practical commitment to Islam and the system, can it still be said that this Majles was created by public cries of "God is great"? If such a Majles takes form, can the Majles be put at the head of all affairs? Yet we expected to be assured that after the impassioned warnings about the dangers of this bill to the preservation of the high station of the Majles, this Majles would not make such a heavy initiative in the course of the nation's law-making. Unfortunately, however, not only did the respected speaker of the Majles fail to give the people this assurance, in allowing this movement to come to the floor, he reduced the high position of Majles speaker to that of chief of one faction.

The Muslim people of Iran remember that despite the many problems in the elections to the third term of the Majles, just as His Holiness the imam thought it advisable pragmatically to validate the Tehran elections and announced his blessed opinion (I myself said at this very podium that the Tehran elections were confirmed in the imam's noble handwriting and we all comply, and whatever shouting we do will be at America), we all voiced our support willingly and with one voice, while you, with the most dastardly accusations, tried to accuse the most loyal followers of the imam of being opposed to Velayat-e Faqih [guardianship of the chief jurisconsult]. However, at difficult times during the revolution, those who practically obeyed the commands of Islam and put the interests of the government ahead of their personal and group interests were known to the people. What has happened now that despite all the guidance and impassioned counsel from the guardian of Muslims and the great emphasis His Holiness the imam placed on preserving the high position of the Assembly of Experts, you are now denouncing it? Is this action on your part in accord and on the same course with commitment to Velayat-e Faqih, defending the imam's line and acting on the political-divine will of that departed leader?

Your Excellency Mr. Karrubi: In your letter, which was filled with signs of your anger, you said: "The qualification of practical commitment has not been eliminated, but rather the way for abuses has been closed with explanations and clearer interpretation." It is good that with a reexamination of this bill you should notice that there is no additional explanation or interpretation. Even in the second round of deliberations by the committee which is now in progress, those who made you hope for additional explanation and interpretation proposed no amendments, and the second round of deliberations is about to be approved based on the first round. God willing, in future consultations on this bill, Your Excellency will offer clarification without relying on hearsay. What are the interpretations that has released you from the need for the qualification of practical commitment? Do you know that the authors of this bill, solely for the purpose of silencing you and the likes of you, have said that manifestations of practical commitment to Islam and the Islamic system should be mentioned in the law as clear articles, and they have not taken the slightest step in this direction? They have simply said "there is no God" and left out the "but Allah."

We hope you will not lead us into this tragedy. In one of his visits, His Holiness the imam told the Majles: "The nation is an Islamic nation. It demands Islam and the commands of Islam. You are not lawyers to to go there and sit down and settle the accounts you have with one another."

Your Excellency Mr Karrubi: If, God forbid, the Majles deputies decide at some point to stop calling the Majles an Islamic Majles and give as their reason the abuses of this qualification by some people, will that Majles still be the best of the essence of the nation, and can it be at the head of affairs?

Your Excellency Mr Karrubi: In your answer to the letter from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, you leveled insults which it is not my place to answer, and made references whose truth or untruth do not concern us in this letter, but we know that these accusations are at variance with what His Holiness the imam (God's peace be upon him) said in his public positions. For example, the statement he made late in his blessed life, "tell the children of my revolution that extremism has no good outcome. If they are not attracted to the gentlemen from the respected Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, in the future they will be involved with people who promote Americanized Islam," does not go well with these accusations that Your Excellency has made against the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers.

In conclusion, I call upon Almighty God to grant success to you and your colleagues in the Majles in redressing these shortcomings in the second round of deliberations on the Majles election reform bill.

'Ali Mohammad Ahmadi, Aligudarz Deputy

'Ali Mohammad Ahmadi, Aligudarz deputy, was the second pre-agenda speaker. [Passage omitted on accusing U.S. of plotting to undermine the Islamic revolution and Islamic movements throughout the Middle East]

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker attacked opponents of his ideas. He said:

In Islamic Iran there have been individuals and prominent people who have continuously sought to gain influence and expand their presence and effect on the revolution. During the lifetime of His Holiness the imam (may God's paradise be upon him) this was shown repeatedly, but with special alertness and insight His Holiness the imam controlled and contained this very well. Consequently, such individuals were unable to carry out their intentions and withdrew. For example, in the second Majles term during the vote of confidence for the toiling government of brother Engineer Musavi, when the imam realized that their aim was not to give a vote of confidence to the government, he issued a proclamation making his views known to the deputies. However, these people portrayed the imam's order as guidance and stood against him. Although they broke the imam's heart and sent him a letter laced with curses, they accomplished nothing. They merely displayed their "lack of practical commitment to the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him)" to the alert nation. In the third term of the Majles, with a calculated plan, they resorted to the qualification "practical commitment to Islam", which unfortunately because of its generality was subject to interpretation, and sought to push aside competent and committed people, but met with a sharp reaction from His Holiness the imam and made another tactical withdrawal. They then sought to interfere with the results of the elections. His Holiness the imam designated a young clergyman to represent him and set a time limit and a decisive approach. He prevented intervention by supervising officials, which usually took place through clinging to some regulations and laws, and the third Majles, said by him to be at the head of affairs and the center of all powers and laws, was installed within the prescribed time.

He added: The aforementioned prominent people, who had no public support, sought to have a bill passed on "dissolving the Majles" during the review of the Constitution and were stopped by the exalted leader and made another tactical withdrawal. The leader of the revolution, in stating "the Majles is a point of hope for the system and the manifestation of power at the nation's disposal," forced the authors of the Majles dissolution bill to withdraw. However, for them the most important obstacles to their reaching their goals were the imam's religious decrees and commands, and in reality these were also a reliable support for the exalted leader. When the imam died they began to insult the sacred structure of the Majles, and at the Tehran Friday prayer service one of them, Mr. Azari-Qomi, said "the imam's commands and religious decrees are not adequate today and cannot be implemented." After that, on various pretexts, once again they are proposing the Majles dissolution bill. In effect they are standing against the view of the exalted leader, who has already thwarted their plans once. How can one be committed to Islam, and at the same time, at the Friday prayer service, the Tehran Friday prayer service, which is reflected all over the world, attack so crudely the most important pillar of the Islamic government, which was formed under the imam's careful supervision and is the essence of the nation's best? Did this Majles not arise from public cries of "God is great"? Does history not suggest the appearance of despotism, oppression and dictatorship immediately after the weakening of the Majles? The dissolution of the Majles is a crude presumption, the kind of thing that would have been said by the bloodthirsty shahs. This evil melody can have come only from the mouths of the Reza Shahs and the other shahs. Why is the evil melody of discord and schism being played, and from a podium that ought to be used to form unity, at a time when the brave nation and its true servants in the legislative power must change the undesirable economic and production situation inherited from the government of idolaters and the period of the imposed war and move out of this situation towards a prosperous and exemplary nation?

He also addressed the clergy of Islam. He said: O clergy of Islam, o great sources of emulation, o exalted leader, I beg of you, stop these people. Why should the fragrant atmosphere, for whose creation the imam's blessed being was sacrificed and which was formed from the exemplary nation, be polluted by such people? These people are responsible before the imam's soul and the blood of the martyrs. Is it not a prerogative of the guardian of the cause of Muslims to order the execution of such fomenters of discord, who periodically disrupt the country and assault the pillars of the revolution, and from the sacred pulpit of the Friday prayer service at that? The theoreticians of Velayat-e Faqih certainly know this.

In his speech, the Aligudarz deputy emphasized:

They must take into account the greatness and basic role of the people and they must take note of what they experienced yet another time in the last elections. I give special assurances to Mr. Azari-Qomi that the Muslim and alert nation of Iran and the nation of Imam Khomeyni (may God sanctify his chaste soul) is not an unaware nation with eyes and ears closed which can be fooled by anyone who wishes to do so. If practical commitment to Islam, which you yourself know better than anyone has never been eliminated but indeed has become more specific, is not a pretext, why is it that you never have anything to say about the instances of lack of practical commitment? For example, if instead of discussing the secondary teachings of religion we talk about its fine points, do you think that we have eliminated the secondary teachings of religion that you do not allow them to be enlarged or reduced, or allow explanations on views about them to develop? Would it not be better, instead of using the Friday prayer pulpit and stirring up opinion against the Majles, which the exalted leader of the revolution has called the hope of the system and the manifestation of power for the nation, if you made your proposals on this bill through letters and newspapers and inform the Majles through the Friday prayer pulpit? Is

discrediting the Majles and its deputies itself not evidence of lack of practical commitment to the ethical principals of Islam, the Islamic revolution and Velayat-e Faqih? Was this talk before the last Friday prayer sermon not the sequel to a series of steps that began with the letter from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers to the respected speaker of the Majles, who was said to be in the front rank of the Mojahedin [strugglers for Islam] by the imam of the nation (may God be pleased with him), because of his unique confidence in that holy man? And did it not continue with statements and talks (and along with that some people such as the society of merchants and guilds wrote a letter to the exalted leader saying that these people are not with us, these people are a momentary entity, and are not with the society of merchants and guilds, we respect the guilds and the bazaar)? Is this not against the Majles and aimed at eliminating a popular movement in the next elections? It is clear, and has been experienced repeatedly, that the path of the people is distinct from that of people who have stood against the imam by saying his order was guidance, and today accuse the imam's followers of infidelity. It is clear that the path of the people is distinct from that of those who sent a letter laced with curses to the imam, and after the imam they declared from the pulpit of the Friday prayer that the imam's orders and religious decrees are not adequate and practical. In conclusion, he reminded the officials concerning the problems in his electoral district.

Motahar Kazemi, Khalkhal Deputy

The final pre-agenda speaker was Motahar Kazemi, Khalkhal deputy. At the beginning of his talk, he said:

The international coalition forces came into the area to discipline Saddam, but what effectively happened was the slaughter of the Muslim and oppressed nation of Iraq and the embargo and plunder of the Iraqi nation's resources and reserves for decades. Consequently, today, instead of respect being given to the Muslim nation of Iraq to enable them to take their destiny in their own hands, for several reasons, to preserve Saddam and the Ba'th party to enable them to fulfill their commitment to accept the 12 resolutions and turn over the oppressed nation's reserves to the Western aggressors, they prefer Saddam and his regime to an Islamic and populist government, so that they will be able to use him as a power counterbalance in the Persian Gulf region. Among the degrading consequences were Saudi and Kuwaiti soldiers kissing as a symbol of freedom the despicable American flag, which is being burned all over the world, and Iraqi soldiers giving a humiliating redeclaration of allegiance at the boots of American officers. Today the architects of Operation Desert Storm are encouraging Saddam to use chemical bombs to slaughter the defenseless people in the cities of Iraq, including Najaf, Basra and Kirkuk. On the one hand they are persuading the blind-hearted hypocrites, who are going through the most humiliating times, to do mischief at Iran's borders. I call upon our dear youth and the Iraqi opposition to work actively to annihilate them.

Continuing, he added: Today in international organizations there is talk of Iraqi war reparations to Kuwait, but nothing is being said about reparations for the eight-year war and Saddam's aggression against the nation of Iran. Today, because of the discord among the world's Muslims, and especially the Muslims of the area, America is presenting itself as the policeman in the new world order. Today it is incumbent upon Muslims, during the anniversary nights of the Koran's revelation and asking for the help of the great spirit of the commander of the faithful 'Ali (peace be upon him), to take their destiny into their own hands to save the world of Islam, especially the homeless and oppressed people of Iraq, from Americanized Islam and world infidelity, and prepare themselves for the International Quds [Jerusalem] Day, to expel the Americans and the coalition forces from the Persian Gulf region and the sacred shrines, to purge them of the filthy presence of Saddam and the Ba'th regime and not to leave unanswered the insult to the sources of emulation, the Najaf seminary and the holy shrines.

Elsewhere in his talk he directed the attention of the government to the important and vital projects in the Municipality of Khalkhal specified in the Five-Year Plan.

Is it not true that the Khalkhal area has exceptional problems with regard to major roadways? When serum is injected instead of a blood transfusion into a person who has fainted from loss of blood, the people will not be saved from this dead end so quickly. The great Foman-Khalkhal and Miyaneh road project, with 70 and 100 million tomans credit per year, will not achieve in the Five-Year plan that importance requested in a letter to the respected speaker of the Majles by the deputies from several provinces unless it is given suitable credit and serious executive attention. The Ardebil-Khalkhal-Daran road, which is one of the very important roads for the Ardebil, Moghan, Meshkinshahr, Sarab and Khalkhal area, will take the people to Tehran along the lowest terrain. The people are counting the minutes until phase two is assigned and studied, in view of the fact that the solution to the Tabriz-Tehran traffic problem will have a good effect. The Ardebil-Khalkhal road, with 770 kilometers of road construction and asphalt, will get nowhere with 70-80 million tomans per year.

The speaker also asked the president of the republic and the responsible officials to do some basic thinking about a rapid solution to the roads in the area, and to save the people from their state of limbo.

Continuing his talk, the Khalkhal deputy discussed the other problems in his electoral district. He reminded the Ministry of Energy about carrying out the water delivery and sewage projects for the municipalities of Khalkhal and Givi, the Ministry of Construction Jihad concerning dam construction, fundamental and basic construction in the area, solving the problems of earthquake victims in Khalkhal such as schools, electricity, road construction and ambulances, the Ministry of the Interior about opening the earthquake-damaged rural roads in

Khalkhal, the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education, Health, Treatment, [and Medical Education], and Agriculture about creating colleges of agriculture, nursing and midwifery in the area, the minister of housing and urban development concerning starting construction on the 96-bed Khalkhal hospital and 110 low-cost buildings in Khalkhal, the Ministry of Education and Training about creating teacher-training centers, completing technical colleges, and building 24-hours girls' and boys' schools in the region's rural areas and districts, and the governor-general of East Azarbayjan about sending public buses and mini-buses to Khalkhal.

Ratifications

At its first public session for 1370 [21 March 1991 - 22 March 1992] the Majles approved the draft bill to change the salary table and payment regulations for government and judicial employees.

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's public Majles session states that after consideration of the draft bill to change the salary table and payment regulations for government and judicial employees as the session's agenda, the remainder of the provisions of the bill were approved after discussion and study by the deputies.

Based on Article Eight, as of 1/1/1371 [21 March 1992], in view of the the changes caused by implementation of this law, the government must change and amend the percentage and/or amount of extraordinary payments in articles 39 and 40 under the National Employment Law within the limits of the allocations approved.

The amounts paid as the aforementioned extraordinary payments will remain in force without changes of any kind until 1/1/1371.

According to Article Nine, as of 1/1/1370 the salaries of judges will be calculated as follows:

(Acceptable years of service times the annual increase coefficient plus the base number) salary coefficient = salary

Note One - The salary coefficient given in this article is equal to the salary coefficient of the official members of the academic faculty (educational and research) employed and retired from the universities and institutions of higher learning enacted in by the Majles in 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] and its subsequent changes.

Note Two - The base number for the employment grades of judges who have at least a bachelor's degree judicial license or its equivalent, are designated as follows:
Group 1 (Employment Grade 3) 80
Group 2 (Employment Grade 4) 90
Group 3 (Employment Grade 5) 100
Group 3 (Employment Grade 6) 130
Group 5 (Employment Grade 7) 150

Note Three - In calculating the salaries of those with judicial employment at a lower level than the bachelor's degree judicial license and its equivalent (given in the single article law designating the judicial status of those employed three years in the prosecution offices of the Islamic Revolution), ten units will be deducted from the base number of each group.

Note Four - The annual increase coefficient will be four until the end of the year 1369 [20 March 1991] and will be five as of the beginning of 1370 [21 March 1991].

Note Five - Regulations on changing the position and rank of the judicial group will be based on guidelines to be recommended by the minister of justice and approved by the judiciary in view of the employee's judicial experience, education and their evaluation and ability in carrying out assigned duties.

Likewise, the salaries and benefits paid to those covered by this article will be subject to a fixed 10 percent tax.

According to another of the notes to this article, judicial extraordinary payments will be paid at the level set in Article Four of this Law and its notes as recommended jointly by the Ministry of Justice and the National Administrative and Employment Organization and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article Ten of this bill states: payments will be increased 20 percent for retirement, disability, and beneficiaries [of deceased employees] (total payments to heirs) of judges and official employees covered by the National Employment Law and employees who are subject to these regulations for retirement and employment and who are participants in the National Retirement Fund and who were either retired, disabled, or dead by 1/1/1370 [21 March 1991].

Note - Payments for retirement, disability, and beneficiaries of deceased judicial employees will be computed like the retirement payments for university faculty.

According to another of the notes in this article, the maximum retirement and employment salaries set in this article will be paid to employees who were either retired, disabled, or dead by 1/1/1370 [21 March 1991].

Likewise, as long as the orders to set the status of employees covered under this law on the basis of the regulations mentioned have not been given, their salaries will be payable on account for six months based on the salaries for Esfand 1369 [20 February - 20 March 1991] and with full observance of the regulations in the aforementioned law.

According to the report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, as yesterday's public Majles session continued the leadership of the Majles announced the arrival of two bills called the bill topPermit continued education at higher educational levels to those eligible for the university faculty and national educational institution faculty procurement procedures law, and the bill

exempting from military conscription status review Iranians holding advanced degrees and specialists living abroad who have traveled abroad to participate in seminars, specialist training courses, practical inspections, and to carry out short-term projects.

* 4 Apr Session

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[Text] Legal and Majles Department—The Majles met in public session Thursday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

At this session, after comments by the deputies from Golpaygan, Tehran and Varamin, the Majles went into its agenda and more articles from the Islamic Revolution Guard employment regulations bill were approved.

Printed below for our esteemed readers are the remarks from the pre-agenda speakers.

Abu Taleb Mahmudi, Golpaygan Deputy The first pre-agenda speaker was Abu Taleb Mahmudi, Golpaygan deputy. He began his talk with comments on the Persian Gulf war and Saddam's slaughter of the oppressed people of Iraq. He said:

Early in the Persian Gulf war, most political analysts were astonished by the analyses and justifications of Saddam's attack on Kuwait and the struggle against America and the allies. After the war it became clear that the primary objective was the revenge polytheist world imperialism is taking against Islam and the Muslims. Saddam, who appears to be against America and Israel, is a lackey who is taking his own revenge and serving the evil objectives of world polytheism, preparing for the sale of more destructive arms, making world Zionism powerful again, creating a permanent base in the Persian Gulf, and portraying as insignificant the prime Islamic powers by destroying material and spiritual resources, slaughtering masses of Muslim youth and burning oil wells. That day the late Ayatollah Hakim said: "The Aflaqi Ba'th party is atheist and infidel." The mistake of the Iraqi nation was the compromise with these germs of corruption, who today, with the destruction of the nation and wealth of Iraq and the area, undermining respect for the clergy and the sources of emulation, destroying the holy shrines and sacred places, and mass slaughter with fire bombs, they shrinks from no crimes.

Discussing the mass slaughter in Iraq, he added: It is surprising that early in the Persian Gulf war naive people were calling on the nation and the government to support these criminals, who made the Mongols and the Romans look innocent by comparison.

The Golpaygan deputy then gave thanks for the positions of the leader and the president during the Persian Gulf war. He added: On the pretext of non-intervention in the internal affairs of others, the international organizations did nothing more than make dry and meaningless statements. Do the positions taken by the United Nations, the secretary general, the Security Council, the Human Rights Organization and even the Islamic governments not reveal their lack of human feeling? Can a person with a human conscience hear about these crimes and not tremble? If it is possible, why do you not set out to destroy the criminals?

Elsewhere in his talk, Abu Taleb Mahmudi praised the economic and foreign policies of Mr. Hashemi's government. He said: The government's positions in economic planning are intelligent and significant, and I can courageously say that the continuation of this process will resolve and minimize economic and production problems in the not-so-distant future. Relative economic prosperity, putting production factories into operation and consequently creating more work, the relative abundance of many goods, significant price reductions on some goods, more exports of domestic goods, freedom to import and export more goods needed by the people, the elimination of many of the crippling formalities that formerly existed are pleasing and a good foundation for the future. In foreign policy, the government has succeeded in attracting the attention of political leaders in most nations and establishing more relationships while maintaining revolutionary positions, and this is praiseworthy. Iranians abroad must come back to the country and give greater encouragement, especially with their capital, which is being used by foreigners, and put their financial and intellectual capital in the service of the people and the revolution, and there will be more measures taken in this desirable connection. If foreign capitalists accept our revolutionary principles, their capital must be welcomed in the service of production.

He also noted: Agriculture has not progressed at the same striking rate as other sectors. The main reason has been the shortage of agricultural implements, low prices for its products compared to other prices, and the high cost of traditional labor and the resultant migration to the cities. Believe me, if the agricultural problems are not solved, our defeat is certain in agricultural and animal husbandry production.

He discussed the elections of the Islamic councils. He said: The elections of the councils must be conducted with complete impartiality so that the people will be hopeful and confident in the coming Majles elections.

He discussed the increase in vehicle prices. He said: When heavy industry is not sufficient to produce the nation's needs, obstacles to the importation of vehicles, especially agricultural machinery, must be removed with regulations which are being drafted. The enormous cost of shipping goods has an effect on other goods, and the high prices of vehicles, which doubled last year, have eclipsed all other prices.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker thanked and praised the minister and employees in the Ministry of Mines and Metals concerning the rock mines in Golpaygan and the minister and employees of the Ministry of Petroleum for starting phase two of the Abadan refinery.

Continuing his remarks, Abu Taleb Mahmudi discussed the elimination of the phrase "practical commitment to Islam." He said: This great Islamic legacy, which has come to us through the leadership of the late imam and the sacrifices of the righteous people, must be preserved and guarded, and any sort of factionalism is harmful. In the matter of substituting the phrase "belief in Islam" for the phrase "practical commitment to Islam" and all these things that have been said and written about that, I must humbly ask, first of all, did we have a problem with this law that will be solved with the elimination of that phrase? Do we not have enough to do, that we are doing these things? If someone believing in Islam does not have practical commitment to it, is he a just or a corrupt believer? If the right to vote for the corrupt or the just is the same, can an Islamic government be realized with the corrupt candidate? If someone is elected tomorrow and the Majles recognizes his corruption, can he be expelled? Does every corrupt person lack belief in Islam? Perhaps the root of mistakes like this is the assumption that whoever believes in Islam will necessarily carry out commands, when this is certainly not the case. Believers often neglect duties and do what is forbidden. Therefore, God willing the Majles will correct this problem and the matter will end and no longer be drawn into the newspapers and society.

In conclusion, he mentioned the increased electricity rates. He said:

I emphasize to the Ministry of Energy and the Economic council my anxiety and that of the people concerning the tripling of electricity rates. I hope there will be a reappraisal of this as soon as possible in view of its political consequences.

'Abdol-Vahed Musavi-Lari, Tehran Deputy

Seyyed 'Abdol-Vahed Musavi-Lari of the Tehran electoral district was the second pre-agenda speaker at Thursday's public Majles session.

Discussing the situation in the region and the slaughter of the Iraqi people, he said: It is unfortunate that we are seeing domestic activities which are weakening the foundations of the government, disturbing public opinion, and shaking the government of the Islamic Republic in its essential encounter with the issues and problems which are facing it while under such circumstances, the Islamic Iran, as the center of the world of Islam and the most important nation in the region, must carry out, with unity, greater coordination than before, and maximum power and authority, its historic role against the Satanic activities of imperialism in the area, the slaughter of the nation of Iraq and the imposition of the conditions of Zionism upon the people of Palestine.

He added: Under such complex conditions, the wave of instigation, weakening and accusation against the highest part of the government after the leader, meaning the Majles, is on the rise. The deputies elected by the people are being insulted by organizations and individuals affiliated with special factions. Examples that can be cited are the letter of curses from some Tehran and Qom merchants against the respected Speaker of the Majles, who is one of the pillars of the revolution and a true companion of His Holiness the imam, as well as the sacred structure of the Majles and the raising of certain issues in public.

Continuing, 'Abdol-Vahed Musavi-Lari said: In a talk prior to the Friday prayer sermon, Mr. Azari-Qomi, taking as a pretext a proposal to change parts of the Majles election law, said some things that are worthy of reflection, some of which I will mention: The draft bill to dissolve the Majles and assumption of guilt and sinfulness for those who have signed the Majles election law amendment bill; designating the characteristics of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) and distorting the views of His Holiness the imam; attacking the governor of Qom and weakening the executive system, and discussion of the unfounded decree attributed to Mr. Khoei on Velayat-e Faqih [guardianship of the chief jurisprudent].

He discussed the matter of eliminating the pqualification "practical commitment to Islam." He said: The actions of some members of the Council of Guardians and the Election Supervisory Committee chosen by this council during the elections to the third term of the Majles showed that a faction which does not have the necessary vote of support among the people because of its positions and what it has done is trying to establish a presence for itself by removing its rival from the competitive field. An example is in the mid-term elections and the competition between Mr. Sarhadizadeh and his rival. We saw how the people of Tehran went to the polls despite the long distances and voted with alertness and awareness. We also saw the huge margin [of loss] that eight members of this faction had in the election to the Assembly of Experts. We saw that during the elections to the Assembly of Experts, despite all those issues, those people who were completely affiliated with this faction received only 600,000 votes in all of Tehran Province. We saw that when the people of Tehran, who always vote on the basis of opinions and views, in a massive turnout elected deputies who were not the ones desired by these gentlemen. They even went so far as to try to nullify the Tehran elections, but the careful attention of His Holiness the imam and the honesty of some legal specialists in the Council of Guardians kept the gentlemen from being able to do anything. In dealing with the competence of the candidates to the Assembly of Experts, we saw how they operated. They eliminated a great many of the most honest figures in the system for no reason. As an example I will mention Mr. Moraveji, a candidate to the Assembly of Experts from Lorestan. Despite being authorized as a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, he still took the test, made an even higher score than required, but again his competence was not confirmed, and it is obvious why he was not confirmed.

Therefore, in view of such a track record from these gentlemen, the authors of the bill, who are themselves

outstanding as people committed to Islam and Velayat-e Faqih, drafted a bill, and although the gentlemen tried to destroy it with technicalities, they also referred to the principle of the issue in some cursing letters. In this draft bill the limits on the views of the Council of Guardians were defined and there is less possibility for abuse. This is the source of the uproar, not issues like the elimination of the qualification of practical commitment to Islam, and even so I also believe that the qualifications for candidacy, despite the fact that the people are insightful and can themselves discern, must be taken so seriously that no stranger may get into the Majles, of course with explanations and with avoidance of generalities which will lead to abuses. Therefore, the quarrel is not over practical commitment or the lack of it, it is over limitations on discretion which has interrupted the pleasant dreams of some people.

He then discussed the characteristics of the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him). He said: I will quote verbatim His Holiness the imam: "For many of the Islamic nations, the line has not yet been made clear between Americanized Islam and the pure Islam of Mohammad, the Islam of the barefoot and the deprived and the Islam of the rigid, pseudo-pious, the godless, and comfortable capitalists." These are the indicators of the pure Islam and Americanized Islam, but he said that the criterion of the pure Islam is one of the clear features of the system which is Velayat-e Faqih, and in my belief, because of the clarity of the subject, His Holiness the imam did not mention it. Rather he mentioned those characteristics which were outlined [above], and I hope that he [Azari-Qomi] intentionally has not changed these characteristics.

Continuing, he said: An interesting point in his other remarks is his discussion of the problems in Qom from the pulpit at the Tehran Friday prayer service. The Tehran Friday Prayer Staff has never permitted the deputies from Tehran, other than that small special group, to go and speak at the Tehran Friday prayer service. They bring these types of people who want to solve the problems in the city of Qom at the Tehran Friday prayer service. While I am surprised, as a student from the Qom Seminary, I would like to say: Your Excellency Mr. Azari: Although God willing you are above these issues but you have a problem with the mayor and governor of Qom over several thousand meters of agricultural land you want to put to different use, or other lands your son wanted to use. I would not try to judge whether you or the gentlemen are right, but is it appropriate for you to ddrag these issues to the Tehran Friday prayer service, which is a forum for the entire system, and is it a sign of practical commitment to slander a Muslim, and because of personal issues?

As for your statement that the imam said the criterion of the pure Islam is Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, this is a distortion of the words and views of His Holiness the imam. Indeed, His Holiness the imam advised the revolutionary seminary students to be with the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, for otherwise there is the fear that they will be trapped by people who promote Americanized Islam, and you yourself know where the difference in the path leads, although right at the same time he told the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers to be with the revolutionary seminary students.

The fourth point brought up was the proposal to dissolve the Majles, and on the pretext of supporting the government of Mr. Hashemi. Apart from the principle of proposing to dissolve the Majles, which is very much against the views of the exalted leader, and Mr. Azari saw his [the leader] quick reaction at the Review Council, the question is, is defense of the government of Mr. Hashemi defense of him personally? Who were the individuals who insulted him [Mr. hashemi] when discussing social justice? Who were the people who regarded his views as mimicry? Who were the people who did not let him into the Fayziyeh Seminary early in the revolution? If it is necessary to defend the Islamic government, who were the people who sabotaged the government during the war? Who were the people who opposed taxes? Who were the people in the group of 99? Who were the people who raised the master [and disciple] and guidance issue [reference to those who attributed a dervish-type station to Khomeyni and interpreted his words as guidance rather than commands] to weaken the government? Who were the people who opposed the Labor Law?

In conclusion, he said: In a system based on Velayat-e Faqih, and 13 years after it began, what does it say when the hypothetical question is raised by a gentleman who opposes Velayat-e Faqih, and during the Tehran Friday prayer service at that? Is this not creating a negative attitude? Would a people who voted by more than 98.2 percent in favor of the Islamic Republic follow the views of a theologian who says he does not accept Velayat-e Faqih? Mr. Azari: What do you intend to achieve by raising this question?

He added: For God's sake, show a little mercy on the people and do not disturb public opinion under these difficult and sensitive conditions. Come and submit to the law and the path and practice of the imam so that we can all support the exalted leader to preserve this Islamic Republic, which is a divine gift and remnant of the imam.

Mohammad Qomi, Varamin Deputy The third and final pre-agenda speaker at Thursday's public Majles session was Mohammad Qomi from the Varamin electoral district. He began by discussing the establishment of political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, and the announcement of Iran's presence at the pilgrimage to Mecca, and he read highlights from the words of His Holiness the imam concerning the pilgrimage. He said: Now that the Saudi family is at its weakest politically and socially, lacking any sort of legitimacy and appeal in the world's Muslim society, when today there remains not the slightest doubt that the Saudi family is not competent to manage the noble shrines due to the fount of martyrs' blood that flowed at Mecca and other

events, even though until yesterday a few uninformed people did not know the essence of the regime ruling the Hijaz, everyone knows now that the sanctuary is not for the people, but for America, for the security system of the shrines is also administered by America. Meanwhile a Saudi newspaper wrote in a commentary that the renewed establishment of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia shows the correctness of the political directions of the Saudi monarchy.

He added: The American-Wahabi regime ruling the Hijaz has set out to exonerate itself, not realizing that the blot of shame America has put upon them will remain until the day of resurrection, and cannot be cleansed even with the holy waters of Zemzem [name of a well in Mecca] and Kautar [name of a river said to be located in Paradise]. The Varamin deputy continued: Any kind of talks about the pilgrimage must make the necessary preparations to carry out the religious obligation of Abraham's pilgrimage from a righteous position and not merely as a political negotiation, and the principle of dealing with the crimes of America and the Saudi family concerning the tragedy of exalted Mecca will remain in force. Holding demonstrations to drive out the polytheists with the same splendor and quality as before is not something that is subject to negotiation and discussion. Did our late imam not say that pilgrimage without innocence, pilgrimage without unity and pilgrimage that does not seek to eliminate infidelity and polytheism is not pilgrimage? He said that they do not know that the politics of pilgrimage are not politics we made, pilgrimage is an Islamic politic, and our premise from the beginning has been that we would go on pilgrimage the same way as before, that we would have demonstrations and marches just as they did before, and the governments must tolerate it. The Koran has also ordered this, and whenever we go pilgrimage we must do the same thing. Are they going to stop us and prevent us from going on pilgrimage? Whether we are in Mecca or not our hearts and souls will be with Abraham and in Mecca. Let them close the gates of Medina to us or open them, our dialogue with the Prophet will never weaken.

Our people go on pilgrimage to say again to Mohammad (peace be upon him) that they have not tired of the struggle and they know well that the Abu Jahls and Abu Lahabs [the enemies of Prophet Mohammad during the early history of Islam] are waiting for revenge.

Continuing his remarks, he emphasized the necessity of punishing those responsible for the slaughter at noble Mecca [the death of Iranian pilgrims during their riot in Mecca]. He said: By the way, as the center of the world of Islam, what guarantees has the Islamic Republic of Iran obtained from the Hijaz regime about protecting the lives of God's visitors? What guarantees are there that the tragedy of bloody Friday will not be repeated, the heart of the Seal of the Prophets [Prohhet Mohammad] will not be broken again, that the Kaaba [the shrine in Mecca] will not again be wearing a different shroud of mourning? Was not the same Wahabi crime repeated last year at the Mina Tunnel tragedy, and did not hundreds of pilgrims to the sacred house of God lose their lives because of the criminal policies of the Saudi family, or at least because of their incompetence? Have we not heard that the Abu Sufyans and Abu Lahabs [enemies of Prophet Mohammad during the early years of Islam] of the modern age and the Great Satan have set out to eradicate Islam and have come to the area and set up a permanent base in Riyad? Then what guarantee is there for the security of the pilgrims? In any case now, to honor the men and women pilgrim martyrs who transformed the pilgrim's robes into robes of war and the great martyrs who performed their prayer ablutions in blood from Ishmael's Zemzem well and recited the prayer of love and those in their shrouds of blood from the domain of love who spread their lonely wings of flight to leave this world, and to carry out the will and guidance of the great leader of the revolution, whose path is always emphasized by the exalted leader, I propose in the name of the martyrs of noble Mecca that construction begin on the graves of the imams at Baqi' Cemetery in Medina and that foreign policy officials make every effort to use their resources to pressure the regime ruling the Hijaz to carry out this God-pleasing task so that once more the spotless Baqi', the silent, homeless, and oppressed Baqi' Cemetery will shine before those who love the family of the Messenger of God and that it will heal the hearts of a nation whose dear ones were cruelly slaughtered beside the sacred house of God.

Continuing, he emphasized the necessity of freedom for Muslims in carrying out the pilgrimage of Abraham. He added: We will never forget the imam's will, where he said: "Even if we forget the matter of Quds [Jerusalem], even if we forgive Saddam, even if we forgive everyone who has wronged us, we cannot forget about the Hijaz incident." It is necessary to keep that day alive, a day when Islam was betrayed.

Elsewhere in his talk, the Varamin deputy said: Unfortunately, in a Wednesday pre-agenda speech during the blessed month of Ramadan, one of the deputies said some untrue things about His Holiness the imam (may he live in God's Paradise). Passionately defending the market and the merchants, in part of his talk he said: "Just as His Holiness the mam (peace be upon him) considered it pragmatically advisable to confirm the elections..." Yet the great imam (may God have mercy upon him) said this: "It is worth mentioning that my representative and two representatives of the respected Council of Guardians who had been designated by the gentlemen to look into the Tehran elections came to me several days ago and reported on the health and soundness of the Tehran elections." Again in part of another letter to the respected members of the Council of Guardians, he said: "It would be better if those who exercise caution and hesitation in the matter of the elections would use all the caution to protect the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islam."

Now it is up to the people to judge, who have now found a point of departure for their activities. How can a

deputy who considers himself a supporter of Velayat-e Faqih and accuses others of acting in the interest of factions and groups be willing in the blessed month of Ramadan, and in the service of the aims of a group, to distort the words of the great leader of the revolution? Has this very Majles not designated punishments for those who distort the works of His Holiness the imam? I ask the responsible officials and the Institute for the Preservation of the Works of His Holiness the imam to follow up on this matter seriously.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said: The release of Roger Cooper, this seasoned English spy, who was to remain in prison until the end of his sentence according to judicial officials, is cause for serious question and surprise, and it is appropriate that his crime be clarified for the Islamic nation. What crimes did he commit, on what legal and religious criteria was he convicted, why was the sentence not carried out completely, and what was the point of releasing him on the eve of International Day of Quds [Jerusalem]? The praise of long-standing world imperialism must not make us happy, indeed praise such as this gives us serious reason to reflect on principles. We must learn from our late imam, who said that whenever the enemies of Islam praise us, there has certainly been some problem in what they are trying to do.

Comments by Rasul Montakhab-Niya on Maryam Behruzi's Speech

Invoking Article 17 of the Majles Internal Guidelines, at Thursday's Majles session Shiraz deputy Montakhab-Niya asked to respond to yesterday's speech by Tehran deputy Maryam Behruzi, which was approved by the Speaker of the Majles. He said:

As you know, on 27 Esfand 1369 [18 March 1991] I spoke before this Majles and asked the respected deputies, the distinguished clergy and the writers to stop these distortions and to stop disturbing the people during the blessed month of Ramadan, to put an end to the issues, to let the Majles do its work, and not to attack the Majles. Well, my speech ended. The first Majles session [for the new year] was on Wednesday, and the first speaker yesterday was Tehran deputy Ms. Behruzi, and she certainly distorted what I had said. What I offered to a number of the guilds and merchants in the way of advice she used as a means of instigating tradesmen, merchants and the people, and beyond that to discredit the deputies and especially the Majles revolutionary forces, who are a point of hope today for the Hezbollah forces.

He continued: In my speech, in a reminder to the clergy and the Friday imams, I said: A number of guilds have begun writing cursing letters and they have accused and abused the respected Speaker of the Majles, who is the third highest person in the revolution, along with the Majles deputies. I said, what are these people doing accusing and insulting the Majles and the deputies? Let them go and sell their chick peas and beans. Let them go and stop monopolies and the like of that, meaning that these people ought not to be making accusations and insults. In particular, what business do they have taking on the eminent position of the respected Speaker of the Majles, who is one of those dear to the imam and the nation and one of the very genuine figures of the revolution?

Continuing, he added: If we permit any person, tradesman or not, to come and accuse our prominent people, nothing will stand up and everything will collapse. I therefore stated that these gentlemen should desist. Then this respected colleague of ours came and said something that certainly distorted what I had said. Take note as I read her statement: "Now the Shiraz deputy, in defending a special group, reprimands a group of people for supporting the rightful positions of the distinguished clergy and the respected Society of Qom Seminary Teachers." This is an absolute lie. No one has reprimanded anyone for supporting the distinguished clergy. Supporting the clergy does not mean insulting, accusing or speaking in violation of religious law. It does not mean cursing. If you look at the letters they wrote, they accused and insulted the deputies and the Speaker of the Majles so much that I am ashamed. They reduced them to the level of mini-groups and accused them of the worst things. Is this support of the clergy? If this is support of the clergy, this support violates religious law. Who said that support for the clergy means using curses, insults and slanders? This was not support in the first place, and I advised the guilds to stick to buying and selling beans.

Mr. Karrubi: They wrote a letter, and their letter came to the leader and the Majles. Montakhab-Niya: I also say that this is simply a lie. Here I made a note to say that the respected guilds are a pillar of the revolution. We have always said from the first days that there are four people among the tradesman and in the market who always consider themselves custodians of the guilds. Neither the guilds nor the officials accept them. They are part of a special class and group, like Leeches they attack the tradesmen [to suck their money]. We accept guilds that have backed and continue to back the revolution, the government, the Majles and the leader, and in any case these [guilds] have denied rejected it [the letter]. They even denied it officially in a letter saying they [those who wrote the letter] are not part of us and this is also clear. These people have no base of support. When these same four people became candidates in the elections, they did not get the guild vote. It became clear that they have no position and no base of support.

Continuing, the Shiraz deputy added: She (Behruzi) said: He advises that the guilds (she lied when she said guilds) stick to buying and selling chick peas and beans and no doubt (you see) the students ought to stick to studying, the educators ought to stick to teaching and training, the women ought to pursue housekeeping and matters that have to do with them, the seminary students ought to stick to studying and discussing and reciting Karbala epics and leave the country's politics to the dignitaries. Did I say this? Let the respected deputies bear witness. What a scandalous lie this is for one deputy, who is

fasting, to perpetrate against another from the podium of the Majles. You lie and distort in the blessed month of Ramadan. Why do you do these things? When did anyone say for students not to interfere, for seminary students not to interfere? What I am saying is that the people must get involved in their own destiny. As it happens, I say to your group that people should be given the credit. Some in your group say that the people must be pushed aside and not have the slightest involvement in affairs. This is our difference with you. You turn your own words and weakness back on us.

Continuing, the Shiraz deputy noted: We say that the seminary students, the students, and the educators must get involved. Everyone must get involved. In connection with the respected Speaker of the Majles.... [Unidentified voice:] He started again referring to the respected Speaker of the Majles in his talk.

Mr Karrubi: I am not pleased that you talk about me. I am not pleased.

Montakhab-Niya: Let me say that part of this gang's strategy is that the Speaker of the Majles ought to be overcome for reasons related to the revolution and because of his closeness to the imam, that he ought to be attacked. Well, what I am saying is in that context. It is a faction, a group, and a chain of events, and it makes no difference.

Continuing, he said: The third issue is the distortion of the words of His Holiness the imam, mentioned by Mr. Qomi.

Mr. Karrubi: Mr. Movahedi (Saveji) has been warned based on guidelines.

Mr. Movahedi Saveji: I direct your excellency's attention to articles 77 and 82 of the Majles Internal Guidelines. Article 77 says: "A [deputy] who believes he has been insulted may speak to reject the insult or correct the mistake at the same session." Article 82 is the same way. Your excellency, as Speaker of the Majles, if you have been insulted, under the same Article 77 you have ten minutes to speak in this connection and to rebuff the accusation. But he wants to talk about you out of turn.

Mr. Karrubi: I said the same thing. I believe your excellency has heard my concern. I said do not talk about me.

Montakhab-Niya: The Speaker has spoken. He is above these issues to defend himself. I will say my last words. In her remarks [Behruzi], she distorted the words of His Holiness the imam to call into question the Majles elections. she said that despite the fact that there were problems with the Tehran elections, His Holiness the imam thought it best to accept the situation, yet His Holiness the imam emphasized, His Holiness the imam's representative emphasized and two legal specialists on the Council of Guardians went and said there was no problem. All these things are part of a movement to create doubts about the current Majles term in preparation for the fourth Majles term. [They want] to create doubts about the Tehran deputies. The people must be alert and not believe these things that are being said.

Maryam Behruzi's Reminder Based on the Guidelines

Following the remarks by Rasul Montakhab-Niya, Ms. Maryam Behruzi, Tehran deputy, gave a reminder based on guidelines, and in this connection she said: According to Article 77 of the Majles Internal Guidelines, "if during a talk, negative statements are made directly or implied about a deputy, or if his ideas or statements are misrepresented, the deputy in question is authorized to speak out of turn for ten minutes at that session or the next one to reject the negative statement or correct the mistake." This morning (Thursday) unfortunately Mr. Montakhab-Niya made false statements about me and also said that I distorted the words and the letter of His Holiness the imam, and for both of those, even if not for refutation, need at least ten minutes of talk to remove doubts, and I ask Mr. Speaker to permit me to answer at the next Majles session.

Mr. Karrubi: Tell me what you want to talk about, so I can determine what I should do.

Ms. Behruzi: He (Montakhab-Niya) said several times that Ms. Behruzi lied and portrayed what I said as inappropriate. Then he said it is very bad for a deputy to lie at the podium. The second point is that I did not read His Holiness the imam's letter at all, I only said that His Holiness the imam approved it [the Tehran election results]. The advisability of which I spoke was from our own perspective. In any case, I ask permission to give clarification.

Mr. Karrubi: In your comments, there was a matter concerning which I determined that he (Montakhab-Niya) has the right to discuss. With regard to the second issue concerning His Holiness the imam, however, Ms. Behruzi you leave me no choice but to discuss the matter. Indeed in the month of Ramadan, when I am also fasting, if you, Mr. Musavi-Lari, Mr. Bahonar or Mr. Montakhab-Niya had said what you [Behruzi] said yesterday (Wednesday) about the imam, after the talk I would have talked. I did not speak yesterday only because you spoke about me [too]. That was an unacceptable thing to say about the imam. Because I myself am fully informed of the situation, you said that the imam thought it advisable to accept the Tehran elections, yet I happen to know that Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Ansari and Mr. 'Alizadeh, legal expert members of the Council of Guardians, went and testified to the imam and said sir, we went and studied the situation, there are no tricks or violations in the elections. The imam did not accept the elections on pragmatic grounds. The imam designated representatives officially.

(Hadi Ghaffari: This is the text of the imam's statement, read the text of the imam's statement.)

This sister persuaded me to speak. What am I to do? The text of the imam's letter is as follows: "Respected members of the Council of Guardians, may your blessings continue, in view of various reports and also the investigations and reports of the elections by my representative, its [election results] soundness is obvious and you should announce it." In short as for what you said, that the Imam confirmed the elections on pragmatic grounds, let faction two, faction three, and this and that line put these expressions next to one another and judge for themselves.

Commotion among the Deputies

Standing behind the Speaker of the Majles, Hadi Ghaffari said: Mr. Karrubi, Ms. Behruzi has lied, she should go and sit down.

Speaker of the Majles: My dear gentlemen, take notice. Ms. Behruzi is saying that it is her own perception that the imam had accepted the elections on pragmatic grounds, not that the imam said it was a pragmatic decision.

Hadi Ghaffari [addressing] Mr. Karrubi: If she comes to the podium we will pull her down. If she comes to the podium we will pull her down.

Speaker of the Majles: She is not coming to the podium.

Speaker of the Majles: Mr. Khalkhali, I beg you. Mr. Duzduzani. Sit down, Ms. Behruzi. You came here, they came here too. Everyone go and take your seats. Mr. Duzduzani, come up here. Ms. Behruzi, go over there. Go there, Mr. Khalkhali is also coming. We cannot have a quarrel here between a man and a woman.

Hadi Ghaffari: They want to disrupt the Majles.

Speaker of the Majles: No, they do not want to disrupt it.

Hadi Ghaffari: Whoever comes to the podium, we will pull him down.

Speaker of the Majles: Look my sister, please. I beg you, sit down. Please, I ask you. I know the session is going to fall apart now.

Montakhab-Niya: She slandered us, even lied, now she wants to defend herself.

Speaker of the Majles: With regret and sadness, I repeat, and repetition is wearisome. There were two issues. First was Montakhab-Niya's claim that he was lied about. My answer is that if there was no merit in what he said I would not have permitted him to speak, and the second point is the imam's view of the Tehran elections, and I was in on this and I also read the imam's letter.

Speaker of the Majles: Of course I spoke privately right here with Ms. Behruzi, and you saw that I could not also manage the Majles in the same time so that the situation would not come to this.

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[Excerpts]

Report from yesterday's open session of the Majles.

Legal and Parliamentary section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, following remarks by deputies from Talesh, Fasa and Birjand, the Majles went into session and several more items of the law dealing with the hiring of IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] personnel were passed. Also during this session there was a question from some of the deputies addressed to the petroleum minister.

Below is a report from yesterday's open session of the Majles.

Seyyed Ebrahim Mir Ghaffari, people's deputy from Talesh: Until such time that the bad mentality that governs the administrative machinery is removed, it would be naive to hope for correct action and rapid progress in affairs.

The first speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Seyyed Ebrahim Mir Ghaffari from the constituency of Talesh. [passage omitted]

He said: In the summer of 1989 the respected president commented on the need to create changes in the administrative system and the management of the national investigations' organizations. He talked about the financial corruption that exists in some government organizations and some bodies linked to the government, and about the need to confront these issues in a fundamental way. The secretary general of the national administrative and personnel organization also talked about his organization's programs, and about adequate supervision in implementing laws and regulations in government organizations, as well as expediting affairs and preventing incorrect situations and things that cause dissatisfaction.

The remarks made by the head of the investigations organization in an interview with reporters were, in reality, reflecting the bitter feelings of the people toward the administrative system in the country.

Government centers acting outside the boundaries of the law endangers social security. This is why this time of reconstruction after the war, and the possibility of more wrongdoings in some government organizations, means that the huge wave of people's expectations is going to make the duties of the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani even more difficult.

The people's deputy from Talesh continued: The actions of the judicial power in pursuing financial scandal, identifying and handing over to justice those responsible, are worthy of praise. But for our administrative

system, this problem exists like a monster who is sick and dangerous, therefore these measures are only serving as painkillers and nothing more. The main problem is corruption in offices and financial corruption. This will not be prevented until such time that the bad mentality governing the administrative system has been removed. Until that time it would be naive to hope for having correct action, progress, and basic plans.

In this atmosphere, running away from the law, connections, influence, recommendations, interference, pressure, and irresponsible and unofficial social power have the upper hand. Among the causes, we find familiar themes: self-centered behavior, prejudice, the tendency to look up to one person, factionalism, lying, work slowdowns, low morale, apathy, belittled behavior, abuse, obstructionism, and people causing dissatisfaction. Not paying attention to laws and regulations, putting inexperienced people with limited vision and not enough skills in top positions, which was done in the past, did not have a bright outcome.

This exacerbates administrative corruption, regardless of the reason, and contradicts what is best for society. Also among the reasons and the causes of administrative pressure are: giving more responsibility than needed to be given, as well as abusing responsibility, upsetting the organization of an office, lack of control, lack of provision for daily life and for the future, lack of job security, the pressure and influence in society, and the lack of proper work methods.

He continued and stressed that: In an Islamic regime, the ultimate ruler is God and God's laws govern the land. Velayat-e Faqih means the presence of a leader in society and the supervision over the laws of that society. The other pillar of the Islamic regime is its people who have the duty to safeguard the ideals of the regime and act as its backbone. Such a regime should have an administrative system that is organized, safe, and free from any mistakes. Corruption and the destruction of the administrative system and its workers is not tolerable, either for the Islamic government, or for its people. The administrative setup in an Islamic regime and Islamic management must be role models for other administrative systems in the world, especially in terms of their trustworthiness. It should be thought of as something bright for the future in administrative science and management studies. The government and the experts, in accordance with their religious and legal duties, must make an effort to organize the administrative setup based on the life-giving principles of Islam so that the words "corruption in the administrative system" will no longer have meaning.

The investigation organization, with steadfast and powerful management, with experienced, dedicated judges and lawyers, is a powerful arm of the government for the control and supervision of the quick execution of the law in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In conclusion he talked about the pressures of powerful people in society, in the administrative and management system, and said: Pressure, influence and interference by the powers in society, in office management, often shows itself in small towns such as my constituency. This pressure and influence is only for financial gain because the power in the management system is neither legal nor does it have official responsibility. It is done by threats and through fear.

If the manager resists and prevents the influence and the financial gain, they will put all sorts of labels on the manager, and in this way they try to remove this obstacle from their path. If they succeed, that center will no longer be a place for honest service. If the manager does not resist, if he gives in, he too will be in tune with the others to share in the corruption and destruction. He will then also try to remain where he is and there is praise for his leadership. [Koranic verse] There are examples of both in my constituency. The respected government, officials and the appropriate authorities have a legal and religious duty to vigorously confront this corrupt trend, to dry the roots of this type of corruption.

Hedayat-ollah Aqa'i, people's deputy from Fasa: One must use the principle of exchanging views as a necessity to guarantee freedom, and also to achieve the best methods.

Hedayat-ollah Aqa'i, people's deputy from Fasa was the second pre-agenda speaker. He started his speech by commenting on the plot hatched by world aggression.

He added: Today we face two problems. One of them concerns areas outside of our borders, and that is the formation of a new kind of control by the powers over the peoples left weakened by the withdrawal of the Eastern bloc and Communism. The best example of this can be seen in a country near our own, the innocent nation of Iraq. This country, under the current situation, has become the target of plots and devilish plans due to the incompetence of its rulers and the wrong policies that they adopted. The looters are determined to destroy it and divide it into two areas of influence from Europe and the United States. Without a doubt, presenting a proposal to create neutral enclaves inside Iraq and so forth is the start of the plan. At this point I want to ask the officials responsible for foreign policy and all politicians to be careful with regard to our position and propaganda, so that we do not unknowingly make life easier for the enemies of Muslims. There must not be another division of a country such as that of the Ottomans and the creation of another Israel in Iraqi territory.

Hedayat-ollah Aqa'i, in another section of his speech, commented on the current affairs in the country, and said:

Our other problem is inside the country and that is how to control the war of thoughts and the prevention of one specific line of thought being imposed on the people—especially if that line of thought is regarded to be a step back to the past. It is necessary to note that the principle

of having a multitude of ideas and exchanging views is not only simple, but it is also regarded as a necessity to guarantee freedoms and achieve the best methods and must be utilized. I myself am in favor of encouraging an exchange of thoughts and keeping the various discussions hot. But in the midst of this, one must not forget or ignore the dangers of this issue and the possible abuse that may be made of this issue inside and outside the country. Without a doubt the role of our predecessors and those who are at the helm of the various factions is very important.

At this point I would like to thank Mr Azari, who brought up the subject of the powers of the Velayat-e Faqih in the pre-sermon speech at the Friday prayers in Tehran. I hope that he, and people who think like him, from now on, pay attention to what the opposition side feel as well. I also ask my own friends to make this discussion fuller and more fruitful by presenting intelligent, experienced, and documented views. But in the sidelines of his comments there are some points that are worthy of note. First of all there are some remarks which he quoted from the imam which were in no way correct. For example, with regard to criticizing the plan to correct election procedures, he quoted the imam as saying: "My advice to the people for now and the future is that with determination and dedication to the laws of Islam and what is best for the country, in all rounds of the election, they should choose deputies who are dedicated to Islam and who choose to show their support for the Islamic Republic in a practical way." The phrase "practical support" was not in the imam's statement.

Another point is the judgement passed by him on those who signed the plan. By saying that to have voted for those deputies was a crime, was, on the one hand, not only an insult against the deputies, but also belittled the people by creating the thought that the people should vote on his orders. In any case, there are several points such as these, that can be mentioned with regard to the plan and also with regard to criticism of the executive machinery, but I will not comment on them in order tc save time. The net result is that if the king decides just to have one apple from a tree in an orchard, his slaves will not be satisfied with just one apple, they will uproot the entire tree. [Persian proverb]

When a high-ranking clergyman confronts the representatives of the people in this manner, and says openly whatever he wants behind his back, any idiot can rise and insult the respected speaker of the Majles, Ayatollah Karrubi, who is one of the best figures in the regime and one of the closest friends of the imam. This is a man about whom the imam made the following remarks in a reply to his letter with regard to the hajj, after thanking him for his brave and dedicated steadfastness. The imam said: "Despite being caught up in the bloody paws of the Al-Saud, with firey messages and interviews, he pulled the veil off the faces of these historic criminals and unveiled the unforgettable disgrace of the criminal United States and their wicked puppets for the world to see. You are, thank God, one of the forerunners among Islam's crusaders as you were in previous years." He added:

Of course I regard this move as something more than accidental damage and I feel it is a calculated effort in the path of removing the line of thought which opposes the return of the revolution toward counter-values.

He added: Unfortunately, in the trenches of the forces of the revolution there are suspicious lines of thought which have buried themselves. They include the elements of the Hojjatiyeh organization, capitalists and opportunists. At this time I warn the opposition, who are mostly religious people dedicated to the revolution, that if they unknowingly become promoters of such thoughts—which under the guise of Velayat-e Faqih support the monarchy, which in the name of Islam and the Faqih follow capitalism of the Middle Ages, who do not see the people as having any role, who have these points of identity—that they cannot even put their own homes in order, let alone run a huge country. You should remember this, that even if you use methods such as spreading rumors and provoking emotions in order to get rid of your opponents, instead of using healthy and logical methods, that even if you use the people's dedication and act the same as the Council of Guardians with regard to the people's votes, even if you release dozens more Roger Coopers, you will not be able to change viewpoints. There is a standard today for every situation and our standard of victory is in our successful organization of political and social activity and adoption of methods which are mixed with Islamic brotherhood, even in hot political rivalry.

The deputy from Fasa in another part of his speech criticized the government for asking permission from the great leader with regard to giving a raise to government employees. He said: The action itself is against the Constitution. According to Clause 8 of Article 110 of the Constitution, only the cases which cannot be resolved in the ordinary way, receive guidance from the leader through the Expediency Discernment Council. During the time of the imam there was special permission requested under very urgent situations and the last time he had said that the issuance of such directives was only done in the interest of the war. With regard to this latest permission, none of the conditions mentioned in the appropriate clause of the Constitution have been met. First of all, the paying of a raise is not an urgent matter and the Majles had alreardy accepted it and had passed the bill for the 1991 financial burden. Second, it could have been sorted out in the ordinary way and it would have been enough for the government to bring through a bill as a matter of urgency, even utmost urgency, to gain permission to pay. Of course it is natural that the great leader will give a positive response to the trust of the executive officials. But the dear ones have to keep in mind that one should not render pale our principles for the sake of some individual issues and political sidelines.

In conclusion, he asked that the people take part in the rallies for international Jerusalem Day.

In connection with the speech made by this deputy concerning the gaining of permission from the great leader to increase the salaries of government employees, Mr Karrubi made a short statement and said:

With regard to the permission that was granted by the great leader, this was a problem and an obstcle that the government had and the leader gave his permission. It is natural that in the speech made by our brother Mr Aqa'i it is clear that at any time the great leader decides to issue a decree, his say is final and we all obey. In reality this was a problem, especially with regard to the proposal that was at the Majles. The respected government was saying that this plan will create problems for us under the present circumstances and it cannot be carried out and we will face difficulties. The members of the plan and budget commission also agreed with the government. Therefore the 20,000 rials is paid out and we will quickly give the government's proposal to the special commission so that it is looked at quickly. There will also be the deputies' views reflected therein so that if God is willing in the second half of this year, the proposal will be passed and executed. I thank Mr Aqa'i for his speech.

Abol Hasan Ha'eri-zadeh, people's deputy from Birjand: From 10 to 15 percent of Bazaar merchants spoil the rights of the rest of the tradesmen with small capital.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Abol Hasan Ha'eri-zadeh, the deputy from Birjand. [passage omitted]

Focusing his speech on an attack against Ayatollah Azari Qomi, he said:

Ayatollah Mr Azari Qomi, during his speech at the Friday prayers in Tehran, unleashed a series of insults, swear words and attacks against the Majles, all the deputies and some wise men and crusaders of the Islamic revolution. Prior to this, on 5 August 1984, during the 23rd session of the Second Majles—for which there is a transcript—he said dozens of untruths about the government of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, thereby insulting in the worst possible way the government which was clearly supported by the imam. He also openly indicated that "The Qom Theological Society supported Bani Sadr and Qotbzadeh." During the war he suggested, "Why do you not give 5 million rials per month as salary to doctors so that they stay in the country and perform surgery?" He said, "It is right that the imam has said the government of Mr Musavi has been successful, but with regard to the weaknesses, if you count the weak points they are far too many which cannot be rectified." These are his exact words. Mr Azari Qomi stressed: "If you agree with what I say then do not vote for Mr Musavi as prime minister. There is no problem and no difficulties would be raised for the imam." This means that there will not be a blow against the imam. To answer opponents Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "The imam has considered a vote for Mr Musavi as important." Mr Azari Qomi, because of political issues, his own group and the line of thought expressed in RESALAT, levels insults and attacks against the deputies and some of the important personalities of the revolution and friends of the imam.

He continued: Mr Hasan Khalilyan, deputy governor general of Tehran and the governorate of Qom have written a letter to Mr Khalkhali, Qom deputy in which they say: Land area number 1955 in the Qom area 2 (called powerplant) has the highest population density. Several people, including the son of Mr Azari Qomi, bought the land at a low price and by using the position of his father and the help of some real estate agents in the area, they sold the land at a high price by creating the right atmosphere and by putting pressure on the governor's office to make the land habitable.

Mr Azari Qomi defended this illegal and abusive action. Another thing is that, according to the law creating industry inside Qom city limits is not allowed. But Mr Azari Qomi, by ignoring the law and by using all kinds of pressure, gained permission to establish a sugar factory, permit number 190093, for his son. Other people who were qualified and had experience and wanted to establish a sugar factory in Qom did not manage to get permission. There are documents on this in two places on page 3 of the mentioned letter. Then quite against the existing laws, they get some of the land that belongs to the Government of the Islamic Republic inside the city limits of Qom for the factory, by abuse and influence in the urban land office. Some of the land was bordering on roads and for the area bordering on roads they had a request to make changes inside the city limits of Qom (page 4 of the letter.) Another thing is that the land, number 2 off the main roads, number 2302 measuring 171,420 square meters in the powerplant area of Qom, was considered as a green area. This was put on sale as a whole piece by Mr Azari Qomi and his representatives. The governor of Qom informed Mr Shar'i of the issue to say that the land is agricultural but that they were being sold to people for housing purposes. In accordance with the laws of urban development, approved by the Majles, the government cannot give permission to the buyers to build houses. They they prevailed upon the organization of social welfare to buy the land and the organization agreed to do so in order to build a hospital in Qom. Mr Shar'i informed Mr Azari Qomi of the situation but after a period the land was sold to a group of opportunistic people and they in turn sold the land through the number 3 real estate office in Qom to about 1,000 people, most of them not native, but rather migrants. Quite against all the laws the sale of the small plots which were executed without any city planning, have created for the Qom officials, political and social problems. The same situation goes for another piece of land, number 2302/5 (on page 5 of the letter), with similar circumstances.

Ha'eri-zadeh added: Unfortunately these are some examples of his practical belief in Islam and the Islamic Republic. Then there is the speech given by Mr Azari Qomi in the Friday prayers against the governor and the deputy governor general of Tehran. His speech was given

with the excuse of defending Islam but instead was full of attacks and insults against some of the deputies and wise men of Islam and friends of the iman in the Tehran Friday prayers which set fire to the harvest of the Islamic ummah in the name of defending Islam and Veleyat-e Faqih.

Everyone knows that the plan and the bill which is passed through the Majles, is often changed quite a lot in the second reading as well as in the main and secondary committees. There have been many cases where the bill after the second reading is very different to the bill after its first reading. Making a lot of noise, having political and factional aims, to coerce a group in the name of Islam, is not worthy of a Muslim. Yesterday you heard that in the internal Majles commission the corrective clauses in the plan for election rules were passed. Belief and practical belief in the regime of the Islamic Republic were put as a necessary condition for Majles candidates. There were dozens of clauses and footnotes concerning the correction to the election law, which were necessary, but they ignored those and picked out one phrase to make a lot of noise, to level insults and to swear. I spit on this wicked world. What accusations they spread among the common people and what insults and dirt they dished out at the Friday prayers saying, they want to send people to the Majles who do not pray and that they want to send immoral people to the Majles.

That's enough of tricking the people or fooling them. I think that in some cases perhaps it has been the intention of the planners of the proposal to stop the political cutting edge of some people. The clear example is the unfairness handed out to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Sheykh Morteza Razavi in the Tehran elections, or the unfair treatment to the dear and dedicated brothers Fu'ad Karimi and 'Adel Asadiniya in Khuzestan. In the elections for the Assembly of Experts there was the case for the removal of wise people such as Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Moraveji, the deputy from Borujerd in the Assembly of Experts. Some priests in the church during the Middle Ages did some things which caused people to flee from religion several generations later. The holy Koran orders us to study the situation of other nations and to learn from their mistakes.

The speaker then said: There are some who have for many years been looting and robbing the people in markets, some trades and bazaars. They spoil the rights of other dedicated tradesmen. Some 10 to 15 percent of the bazaar spoils the rights of the rest of the tradesmen who have little capital, and damage the reputation of the majority of religious tradesmen. That 10 to 15 percent of the bazaar who have fallen unto the people, the economy and the small traders like leeches, took 50 years' worth of loot and profit during the years of the war. They act like the Mafia with a network with strong connections and form groups and damage the reputation of most of the dedicated religious merchants in the bazaar. With illegal deals and trade worth billions, they created problems for the government of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi and right now cause problems and obstacles for the current government. God damn all those who deliver blows against Islam and Islamic ummah.

Ha'eri-zadeh, in another section of his speech, commented on the anniversary of the severing of relations between Iran and the United States and said:

There were all those cries and warnings from the great leader of the revolution, the imam - may his passage to paradise be expedited—against the Great Satan the United States, saying all our problems and difficulties were because of the Americans, and all those firey imam-like speeches of our dear leader against the aggressive United States and its allies. What shame, because we unfortunately hear that these days several important directives which were issued by the governemnt of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi banning purchases from the United States and Britain, have now been scrapped. It had been predicted in that directive that in very urgent cases, if in the opinion of the responsible minister something was in the interest of the Islamic people and if it was approved by the cabinet, it was possible to go ahead. So why scrap the ban to free trade links with the United States? Foreign policy has to give an answer to the Islamic ummah. What analysis, what necessity and which wrong policies have scrapped these directives which were the cause of political pride for our Islamic ummah? What do we have to tell the younger generations about politics?

He added: It is unfortunate for our foreign policy to reestablish ties with the Al-Saud government, the traitors of the holy mosques, mercenary host to the criminal and occupying United States, when even Yemen, Algeria, Jordan and even Syria have boycotted them this year. What policies, what analysis and what causes have led to the release of the experienced treasonous English spy Roger Cooper? Here both foreign policy and the judicial power have to have answers—a spy at a time of war, in a special and sensitive place. Not only in the case of this English spy, but also in general there has to be a serious investigation to find and destroy the roots of Freemasons throughout Iran. There has not been enough done in this regard.

The speaker remembered the memory of martyr Ayatollah Sadr and his respected sister and spoke of international Jerusalem Day.

In another section of his speech the deputy from Birjand commented on the recent elections in Esfahan and said:

The other issue is the pitiful situation of the recent elections in Esfahan for the Majles. Some time ago the supervisors stopped the elections for the sake of Mr Salek while Mr Salek had not resigned from his previous position on time and within the legal time limit. There were two contradictory letters sent to the governor's office and in any case, the supervisors stopped the elections which was very unfair and faction-motivated. Recently Mr Salek has come to the Majles with a very weak vote and Esfahan with all that glory shown in previous elections now has a total vote equal to the size

of a small town. When prices go up 10 times, only one-tenth of the people participate in elections.

He talked about high prices and foreign loans and said:

There are some organizations that spend a lot of money, 400,000 people from government offices travel abroad in 1 year, there is waste, high water, electricity and telephone prices backgreaking prices for the installation of electricity for villagers and expensive services' goods and agricultural goods which weigh heavily on the shoulders of workers, farmers, civil servants, salaried employees, teachers, small traders and low-income tradesmen. The government of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, during those war years with rial and hard currency spending, spent some hard years with only $7 or $8 billion and did not complain. Now the oil revenue is about $12 billion and the ceiling of the 1991 budget has been closed at $20 billion which is about three times as much as the first years of the war. I beg the respected ministers to think very hard and in terms of very small sums when it comes to foreign borrowing. In the coming years it seems that the hard currency earnings of the country will not be above $12 billion. You must think in terms of this $12 billion. Seriously, various contracts on credit and promise based on profit and heavy foreign loans are dangerous for the future years of the country. The entire management of the country is what has been seen in the two years after the war. I do not wish to discuss this right now. Foreign loans based on promise, purchasing on credit and the heavy obligations of the Central Bank and the banking system are dangerous for the future. In the years to come the population will grow, the spending will increase and world inflation will also increase. How can foreign loans with high interest be paid off?

In conclusion he asked the Central Bank to look into policies more carefully.

The comments of the speaker of the Majles.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi spoke at yesterday's open session of the Majles and commented on the coming international Jerusalem Day. He stressed the necessity of the world's Muslims participating in the rallies marking this day.

In a section of his speech the speaker of the Majles said: One of the disasters that befell the Islamic world after the occupation of Palestine was forgetting the issue of the Palestinians returning to the occupied lands.

He added: World aggression, in a plot, separated the issue of Palestine from the Islamic world and presented this as an Arab problem. Many of the combatant and political figures among the Muslims swallowed this trick and because of this, Palestine was not liberated. Some other sections of land were occupied by the Zionists and their territory expanded.

The guerrilla organizations that were ready to fight against Israel fell into this trap and the net result was the sacrifice of a group of Palestine's children and all in all they did not manage to gain back one inch of the Muslims' lands that had been taken. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi added: From the beginning of the Islamic movement, the Imam stressed the need for a realistic view when it came to the issue of Palestine. He regarded this important matter as an Islamic one and this is something that is important for the children and the friends of the imam, especially the young forces. They should note that from the start of the revolution the imam regarded, alongside his opposition to the cruel regime of the shah, the issue of Palestine as a problem for the Islamic world. This matter was an ideal for the Islamic revolution which was along side the Islamic revolutionary movement in Iran. This issue of Palestine is one that was born with the Islamic revolution.

He said: The movement of Imam Khomeyni—may his passage to paradise be expedited—following the revolution, was seriously pursued. Naming the last Friday of holy Ramadan as international Jerusalem Day to mobilize the Muslims of the world, was along the same line.

The speaker of the Majles commented on the remarks made by the imam in 1990 on the occasion of Jerusalem Day and said: This movement of the imam on Jerusalem Day has several messages, the first of which is: The issue of Jerusalem and Palestine is one for all Muslims and all Muslims must share in the grief of the Palestinians.

The second point is that Jerusalem and Palestine are not occupied with the force of the Zionists, which are a small group, but by world aggression and heretics, capitalists, the Western world, Britain, the old colonialist, all headed by the United States, the real murderer of occupied Palestine which has occupied the land of the Muslims and supports the occupying Zionists with everything at its disposal. It vetoes resolutions and gives unlimited grants to the Zionists. In other words, all plots and all tricks and treason are done by world aggression and all the destruction, killing and looting in Iraq are done by the criminal Saddam but organized by world aggression. In order to control oil reserves and in order to achieve political hegemony for the United States in the region, they undertake such actions. In those messages the imam stressed the issue that the United States is our major enemy. In his message of 1987 he said: We are determined to dry up the evil roots of Zionism, capitalism and communism in the world. We have decided to destroy the regimes that are based on these three principles, with God's help, to promote the regime of the Prophet of God—peace be unto him—throughout the aggressive world. Sooner or later the enslaved masses will witness this.

The speaker of the Majles said: The third point is that the Islamic nations should know the only way is to rely on the ideals of Islam, this ideology which creates decent humans, and to obey the commands of pure Islam.

Mr Karrubi aded: The Muslim peoples cannot achieve victory until they reach God.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi commented on the Palestinian revolt and said: The Muslim people should know that the

Palestinian revolt needs the support of the Islamic ummah and that the negotiating table is not their salvation. It is only sacrifice, martyrdom-seeking and blood that will save them.

The speaker of the Majles added: The government of the Islamic Republic, the great leader and the Majles have followed the issue of Palestine and will continue to do so. They strongly support the Palestinians. An example of this is a directive given to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni from the great leader.

Mr Karrubi also commented on giving funds to support the Islamic revolution in Palestine as well as putting aside a special fund in this year's budget, as prime examples of practical support for the Palestinian people's revolt.

The speaker of the Majles invited the Islamic ummah to follow the orders of the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—as well as the orders of the great leader and take part in the marches for Jerusalem Day.

In conclusion he stressed: The Muslim peoples should know that the innocent people of Palestine, in addition to needing moral support, also need financial help.

Following the remarks made by the speaker of the Majles, there was discussion on the bill dealing with the laws of recruitment for the IRGC and some more of its clauses were passed.

During this session the legal plan for "the Charter of the National Iranian Oil Company" which was signed by 25 deputies, was handed to the Majles.

Question by the Deputy From Orumiyeh for the Petroleum Minister.

The open session of the Majles continued with 'Ali Kamyar, people's deputy from Orumiyeh who had a question with regard to the shortage of fuel in the province of Western Azerbaijan.

He said: The province of Western Azerbaijan faces severe shortages of fuel and this is not the first time. The people tolerated the issue before because of the war.

He added: The shortage of fuel has meant that many farmers have not been able to till their land and they are behind. Mr Aqazadeh says that the contracts for the trucks which used to work for the oil company have run out and we have transportation problems.

Why did the Petroleum Ministry not predict this situation of contracts for trucks running out? Why were they not thinking about solving the problem?

Reply From the Petroleum Minister.

Following the speech given by 'Ali Kamyar, Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh gave a speech and said: In accordance with the bills passed by the Majles and our programs, we have a legal duty with regard to the distribution of fuels. We must be able to utilize the refineries at a proper level and import the rest of what we need from abroad. In legal terms, the refineries have worked above their capacity and we have also had imports, but the sum of the local production and the imports do not meet the needs of the country.

He added: Western Azerbaijan is not only not receiving less attention than other places, it is also better off than other areas.

Then the deputy from Orumiyeh made additional remarks and said: In Western Azerbaijan province, each village family has received 100 liters of kerosene for 45 days' use. This means that if they want to use it to burn a reading light, it would not be enough. The question that the people have is this: Why is there kerosene and gas oil on the open market but the people who have rationing coupons cannot buy the fuel?

He also said: The Turkish border is open. The Turkish trucks come with ease and load our people's gas oil and take it away.

Kamyar addressed the petroleum minister and said: What predictions and plans do you have for this current year and for next year? We cannot tell the people that the Petroleum Ministry cannot control the distribution of fuels. If you have legal problems, discuss them so that the deputies can do something to solve your problem.

Then the petroleum minister gave a speech and replied to the question posed by the deputy from Orumiyeh. He said: In order that we should not have shortages of fuel, we must distribute on a daily basis 23 million liters of gasoline, 54 to 55 million liters of gas oil and 32 million liters of kerosene. In 1990 there was 22.7 million liters of gasoline, 52 million liters of gas oil and 22 million liters of kerosene per day. When we are short by 10 million liters, of course there will be shortages.

He added: There is no ministry in this country that does welfare work like the Petroleum Ministry. This volume of work is unprecedented in the history of the oil company. But because of the issue of fuel, the entire work of the Petroleum Ministry is brought into question.

Aqazadeh added: The second phase of the Abadan refinery has now started its work. If 70 or 80,000 barrels are added to the level permitted by the Majles, I will lift the restrictions on all fuels.

It is worth noting that after the comments by the petroleum minister, the deputy Majles speaker Hoseyn Hashemiyan addressed him saying: the Majles has always cooperated with the projects and the affairs of the Petroleum Ministry. If you are in need of legislation, bring a bill to the Majles and, if God is willing, the Majles will cooperate.

The deputy from Orumiyeh was not satisfied with the reply given by the petroleum minister.

The Majles will have its next open session on Sunday of next week.

14 Apr Session

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[Excerpts]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles.

Legal and Parliamentary section—The open session of the Majles held yesterday morning was chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, following comments by deputies from Mashhad, Marand, Zanjan and Karaj, the Majles went into session.

During this session, the legal plan to change the pay scale of government employees, which had come across problems from the Council of Guardians since its financial burden has not been assigned, was discussed and corrected.

A report analyzing the actions of the education minister was read at this session.

Below is a text of the pre-agenda speeches made at yesterday's open session. It is worth mentioning that the analysis report will be printed in the newspaper's next edition.

Gholam 'Ali Saleh-abadi, Deputy From Mashhad: The Policies of the Supreme National Security Council on the Events of the Past Year in the World and in the Region, for the Most Part Bring to Mind Conservative Methods, Moderate and Defensive Trends Without Having a Correct Understanding of Issues.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Gholam 'Ali Saleh-abadi, the deputy from Mashhad. He commented on the fact that during their historic and unique march on Jerusalem Day, the Muslims demanded the destruction of Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian state. He said: This demand was made because of the presence of allied American, British and other troops in the region and their unprecedented help for the occupying government of Israel, using the excuse of a few missiles hitting the towns of Tel Aviv and Haifa. This help, compared to the previous years has been multiplied and increased a great deal. I suggest to the Supreme National Security Council, the respected government and the respected head of the Martyrs' Foundation to increase their political, military and financial support for the Palestinian revolt in occupied lands. I suggest to those revolutionary organizations outside of the occupied territories—those who are helping the armed struggle—to increase their help. Along the same line I ask the Foreign Ministry to make an effort to create a steadfastness and resistance front with the help of some revolutionary and independent regimes, with the participation of regional liberation movements who oppose the evil triangle of the United States, Zionism and Israel and oppose the presence of foreign troops in the region, and who are in favor of the establishment of a Palestinian government.

The speaker then discussed the country's foreign policy and added:

My friendly advice to those who implement foreign policy is that, in events that have occured in the world in the past year, our foreign policy in some cases has to be analyzed. These policies, which were usually passed by the respected Supreme National Security Council, have generally adopted a conservative approach, a moderate and defensive stance without correct understanding of the issue at stake. This is why some of the policies can be criticized or at least said to be confusing. Those include:

1. Re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the deceptive government of Britain, especially at a time when most of their troops were stationed in Saudi Arabia, alongside the American troops, planning an attack against Iraq and Kuwait to take over the oil wealth of the region. Without adequate explanations on the advantages and disadvantages of these relations, the British Embassy in Tehran was hurriedly opened.

2. Re-establishment of ties with Saudi Arabia with all that treason and crime involving the killing of about 4000 Iranian and other pilgrims, that country's goods services to the world-engulfing United States, giving billions of dollars to the Americans and their allies, encouraging them to stay even longer in the Persian Gulf region and helping them gain control over and take advantage of the area's oil resources. Under these conditions, the ties between Tehran and Riyadh were hurriedly re-established by forgetting the past. In today's world, any country that holds the key to the Middle East will be the master of the world tomorrow. Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have handed this key to Mr Bush and Mr Major, the British prime minister. God help the oil-producing nations and the oil buyers of the future. [Words indistinct] will complete its control over the Middle East and will also control the oil market. The future of oil in the producing nations is uncertain and confused. One might fight against this plot as of now and one expects the Islamic Republic of Iran to be at the front, not dragging the rear in a defensive position.

3. Re-establishment of ties with Egypt, supporter of Camp David and serious ally to the United States and Britain in last year's events in the Middle East, without giving adequate and logical reasons for this re-establishment of ties.

With regard to ties with Egypt and Saudi Arabia the aim is not to cut relations forever; but the time, place and the conditions for the re-establishment of ties, looking at the world and regional issues are important. In such cases one must look carefully at the interests of our country before such relations are established again, so as not to raise questions among the supporters of this regime both inside and outside the country.

4. The directive to boycott economic and trade purchases which was put into effect by the governments of martyr Raja'i and engineer Musavi to stop buying from and selling to American companies, was sent to all

companies and executive offices in the country. At the beginning of 1990, this directive was cancelled by the first vice president without mentioning the advantages of this action.

5. Taking a neutral stance with regard to the Middle East crisis and then coming out of a neutral position when a lasting peace agreement with Iraq based on Resolution 598 comes into effect, a resolution about which the departed imam had said: "We are determined to have lasting peace. This is not a tactical move."

6. The judicial power's releasing the British spy Roger Cooper, with just a two-line news item without giving adequate reasons, has brought about many and widespread questions throughout the country.

7. The request by some officials to multinational forces to solve Iraq's internal issues, to prevent the killing of Iraqi people by those same troops who themselves killed the defenseless Iraqi people with American napalm bombs. These same troops gave the green light to Iraq, giving it permission to undertake the recent killings. In reality, the true reason for the homelessness of the Iraqi people are those same troops, along with the treasons committed by Saddam and the Baath Party.

Saleh-abadi commented on the results of such policies and said: When such decisions are made by the Supreme National Security Council, then Mr Bush says in an interview; "We are not going to put pressure on Iran to establish bilateral ties. With regard to Iran, things are improving." Bush also says that Iran can play a more moderate or at least less hardline role.

In their analysis they are saying: "In Iran today the pragmatists and moderates have taken control over the radicals and hardliners." They recognize one of the results of such policies to be the release of Roger Cooper and another to be the removal of radicals from executive offices and the Assembly of Experts, which chooses the leadership. The Western world has always realized that one of the obstacles in the path of normal relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran was the presence of hardliners and radicals, or what they termed as radicals, in the executive offices and especially in the Majles, who are in reality revolutionary elements who are against Westernization and unhealthy and large-scale capitalism in the country. Their group, just as some of them were removed from executive offices and the Assembly of Experts—their entrance will be blocked for stupid reasons. At present, the preliminary steps for this are under way in the shape of widespread and poisonous propaganda undertaken by a certain faction within the Majles, against the majority faction there. This will certainly please the West. I ask all the great men of the country, especially the dear leader of the revolution, to stop this type of activity to stop the removal of the true revolutionary forces. These people can remain within the revolution as the revolution's real backbone. They are a serious obstacle in the path of foreign elements wanting to gain entrance to take control over the country. They will guarantee the nation's independence. It is hoped that for key positions, instead of those who have lost their souls to the foreigners, and Westernized elements, these types of people will be chosen since they have passed their examinations in the field of ideology and struggle. It is necessary to note that I do not disagree with all the policies of the Supreme National Security Council. I only seek reasons to be given to the people, especially for their representatives, for these major decisions.

In this regard he added: In many countries of the world, major decisions are made upon consultation with and permission from parliament. With this in mind, one can say some of the decisions made by the Supreme National Security Council are worthy of criticism. Making such decisions results in lessening the power and influence of the positions taken by the Islamic revolution throughout the world. If these issues are realized, there will be irreparable damage to the revolution. The Islamic Republic can, if used correctly, utilize the potential of the support of the world's Muslims as a determining factor alongside other leverage points that it has in its control, with regard to our foreign policy throughout the world. In this way, it can take benefits for its own national interests as well as those of the Islamic world. In that case, the nations of the world, especially the major powers, will think again about the revolutionary country. It is hoped that the Foreign Ministry will better utilize this very important leverage point in its foreign policy.

In another section of his speech, the deputy from Mashhad talked about the economic issues of the country and said: The economic situation in the country is unstable because of the economic policies of leaving the doors open with hard currency sold at competitive rates instead of the official rate and with the wrong calculations that have so far been made in this regard by the Central Bank. Some of these will be mentioned.

The government and the judicial power have no control over the buying and selling of various items in the country. Merchants act in accordance with their own wishes and their own morality. The poor consumer, because of need, will buy at high prices. I suggest to the government and the judicial power to use the system of pricing which is a recognized system throughout the world. That way the people will buy what they need, with peace of mind, at a reasonable price and there will be no room for abuse.

The system of leaving the prices alone is for a time when demand meets supply for all kinds of goods, or else the supply is more than demand. In our country, the level of demand is several times higher than that of supply and production capacity for various goods. This is why the government and the judicial power must take steps to seriously control and supervise this issue by supporting the people and through a struggle against the hoarders and the wealthy, whose danger for the country is by far more dangerous than the plots hatched by the Zionists and imperialists against this country. Figures show that the policies which have come about as a result of presenting hard currency at a competitive rate instead of

the official rate...(at this time it was announced that the speaker's time was runnning out, so he did not continue this discussion.)

Also, with regard to domestic issues, he said:

In recent days, there have been suspicious movements made on behalf of the faction linked to a minority in the Majles, against the majority faction in the Majles, which was elected under special conditions, with the revolutionary knowledge of the people. Even though the nature of this minority faction and the newspapers linked to them is known to the people, the people should also know that the accusations are baseless and deserve an answer at the proper time.

Saleh-abadi then commented on the question posed by the president of the Council of Guardians and said: The respected president has asked the Council of Guardians about abstention votes. He has asked whether abstentions can be considered as votes in favor with regard to impeachment of ministers. The Council of Guardians has given a negative answer. It has now been 11 years, 9 of which have been during the time of the current president as Majles speaker, when the Majles has acted in accordance with its regulations. Why is it that now there are these types of questions? Unfortunately, there are also these types of replies coming from the Council of Guardians. It is hoped that this sort of reply is not like that of the Council of Guardians with regard to the Majles looking into the budget. They gave the opinion that, if the Majles passed the budget, it would result in foreigners gaining control over the country, but if the government passed the same budget, that would not happen.

In conclusion, the deputy from Mashhad added:

These days, there is a lot of activity on the part of the office that runs the holy mosque in Mashhad against the majority faction in the Majles and their representatives. We hope that at a proper time a suitable answer will be given to them.

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Karim Shafe'i from the constituency of Marand.

He thanked the people for taking part in the widespread rallies on Jerusalem Day and said: The Islamic world celebrated Jerusalem Day under conditions when the planners of the new world political order have taken under their own control a huge portion of Islam's geographical boundaries, including the place where the message of God was delivered, keeping in mind the ideological struggle of the Islamic ummah and their beliefs. They have caused pain to the hearts of the prophet and his successors. The stubborn attitudes of the power-hungary rulers of Baghdad on the one hand and the scared attitudes of some of the Arab rulers linked to the Great Satan on the other, gave the United States the opportunity to shed the blood of more than 100,000 innocent Muslims and make hundreds of thousands more homeless, destroying the material wealth in Iraq and Kuwait, gaining control over the oil resources of the Islamic world with the presence of 100,000 armed troops in tents.

The Islamic world should know that the United States will not be happy with anything less than the material and spiritual death of Muslims. The Asian countries can be sure that in the new order planned by the United States and some European countries, nothing has been planned for them more than slavery in the 21st century. Therefore, all these countries, keeping in mind the interests they share, must sign a blood oath and designate a place for themselves in the future political order of the world.

The heads of puppet regimes should also know that if they continue their slavery toward the United Sttes, they will be considered as tired puppets of the Americans and the West, and will sooner or later be replaced, as interests dictate. [passage omitted]

Davud Haji Naseri, Deputy From Zanjan: When the Constitution Has Determined That Elections for the Assembly of Experts, the Presidency and Majles Should Be Absolute and Public, Why Should We Seek To Limit This?

The third pre-agenda speaker was Davud Haji Nasiri, deputy from Zanjan. [passage omitted]

He commented on the plan to amend some clauses in the law governing Majles elections. He said: This plan was presented to the Majles some time ago by several deputies. Its generalities were ratified. With regard to removing the clause to enforce a pre-condition of practical belief in Islam and the Islamic Republic, this was criticized by the Theological Society, the Friday prayers of Karaj, Arak, Semnan, the secretary of the representatives of scholars and theological students at the Qom Theological Center as well as some personalities, organizations and guilds.

Haji Naseri then talked about the speech made by Musavi Lari, deputy from Tehran who had said: "In this plan, the limits of supervision by the Council of Guardians has been clearly laid out and there is less chance for abuse. This is the source of all the noise. Issues such as pre-conditions for putting Islam into practice—the problem is not over the necessity to have practical beliefs, the problem is over limiting powers which have ruined some people's sweet sleep." Haji Naseri replied: If the Constitution in Article 99 has given the job of supervising elections for the Assembly of Experts to choose the leader the president, the Majles and public referendums to the Council of Guardians, leaving them absolute and public in nature, why should we seek to limit it? Do you think the Council of Guardians, which has the approval of the imam and the leader in terms of their justice, has so far abused its power in its supervision of elections? The fact that he says this limits the chance of abuse, does this not insult those approved by the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—

and the great leader? Is this not weakening the holy body of the Council of Guardians, which Article 93 of the Constitution says has to exist before the Majles can be considered as legal? Mr Haji Naseri added: We believe that approving or disapproving the credentials for participation in various elections—Assembly of Experts to choose the leader or Majles deputies—depends on the past actions of the people themselves, not on the kind of thought or faction or group that accept the regime and the leader. It is the people and the candidates themselves who are responsible for their own actions, not the factions and groups. In reality no one is rejected or accepted by the Council of Guardians simply because of their link or sympathy to a faction. This is something that has been created in the minds of some people who are now expressing concern in this regard for the fourth round of Majles elections.

The deputy from Zanjan talked about the corrections made in the commission for councils and internal affairs with regard to the necessity of proving practical belief in Islam in an authorized court and said: The proper courts will look into violations and not credentials, whereas the respected Council of Guardians, which is made up of six just clerics, who are aware of current issues, look into the credentials of the candidates based on what has been said in the Constitution and then they announce their views.

He commented on the remarks made by Hedayat-ollah Aqa'i, deputy from Fasa, who had said that the president in asking permission from the leader to increase the wages of civil servants contradicted the basis of the Constitution and Clause 8 of Article 110. He said: The Constitution in Article 57 recognizes the powers governing the Islamic Republic of Iran to be the executive, legislative and judicial branches, under the absolute rule of the Velayat-e Faqih and the leadership of the ummah based on future principles of this law. It must be noted that in the finished budget for 1990 the legal permit to pay the 20,000 rials extra was valid only until the end of that year. Keeping in mind that the plan presented was impossible for the government to implement, and the fact that the Majles plan and budget commission agreed with the government on this point, this seemed like a deadlock. To solve this problem, the best, nearest and simplest solution was to seek permission from the great leader since the three powers are under the supervision of the Velayat-e Faqih. In reality, the leader exercised his power. The fact that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani sought permission from the leader shows his dedication to the absolute Velayat and also his wisdom so that the government would not face new problems with regard to extra pay. In order to solve this problem, the proposal was accepted by the leader. The people's deputy from Zanjan concluded by thanking the heroic people of Zanjan and Tarem 'Olia for their widespread participation in the marches marking international Qods Day as well their selfless help for the Iraqi refugees. He asked them for more help for the Muslim Iraqi refugees.

'Abbas 'Ali Zali, Deputy From Karaj: If Differences of Opinion Exist Over Political, Social and Economic Issues, Bringing Them Up in Society Will Be Educational.

Dr 'Abbas 'Ali Zali from the constituency of Karaj was the fourth and last pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles. [passage omitted]

He added: Without a doubt, the Muslim peoples of the region will see the savage and inhumane behavior of the aggressive United States and will confront the silence and support for the cruelty of Saddam. They are also aware of the patience of the people and officials of the Islamic Republic and their help for the innocent people of Iraq. They will not tolerate the presence of foreigners, the continued rule of puppets and also the continued looting of their resources. They will take revenge for the blood of women and children and innocent men in Iran and other Islamic lands which have been the victims of all this crime. They will not sit idle until the complete liberation of the Islamic land of Palestine and the destruction of the occupying Israel.

'Abbas 'Ali Zali commented on the reality that has emerged since the Persian Gulf war and said: We must be more serious than before in stressing the need to cut off all hope in aggressive regimes, especially the allies of the criminal United States.

We must emphasize safeguarding our independence, our lack of dependence on other countries, the need to keep our unity and be grateful for the existence of our revolutionary people. It is very proper for the government and the Majles to use all their thinking power and plan exactly and use the best possible means to lessen the problems of the oppressed and religious peoples of our country.

The deputy commented on the fact that the oppressed classes have often played a key role in defusing the enemies' plots and added: Keeping in mind the back-breaking conditions of life, it is necessary to take serious steps to try and control the inflation which has come about as a result of the policy of lowering the value of the rial to control the vulnerability of the classes with low income and those with a fixed income. The lack of supervision over the methods of distribution, pricing, the quality of goods and services needed by the people, the constant rise of prices or special services and their physical and mental effects on the rest of prices, has brought about an intolerable situation for the revolutionary peoples of our country. The side-effects, including work slowdowns, selling less, selling at inflated prices, increasing immorality in society and in offices could threaten the future of our revolutionary society.

The government and the economic council should take an overall view of the policy of changing the value of the rial in exchange for goods and services, think of simultaneous methods to support the vulnerable classes, change spending in an appropriate way and think again about the system of distribution and supervision over

the quality of goods and their price and the services needed by the people. These elements could lessen to a tolerable degree the adverse affects of rising prices and the resulting pressures on the lower income classes. Under the current conditions, much of the people's worry is focused on the lack of quality and the fact that there are vast differences in price depending on the time and place of purchase. They especially suffer a lot because they do not know to whom they should complain about all this unfairness. It is necessary on behalf of the respected government and the judicial power to take serious measures to control the prices so that they match the cost of production and distribution.

He then talked about the need to safeguard unity and to stop the people worrying. He continued: Having differences of opinion over various issues is natural. Under normal conditions, we can use the criticism of all dedicated and sympathetic elements to remove problems, to better our work. But if there is no attention paid to the method of criticism, or if there is no tolerance for criticism in society, or if the level of criticism drops to personal or group confrontations, sometimes without fairness or piety, simply to get rid of one side or another, it would be hard to achieve results from the differences of opinion. These kinds of confrontations can not only tarnish the image of revolutionary personalities, they also create the groundwork to lessen the trust of the people in all officials. Without a doubt, if differences of opinions are linked to political, economic and social issues, discussing various issues in society can be educational and could bring about the proper means for the people's judgement and education.

He commented on the need to pay attention to agriculture and said: At present, actions and policies are not coordinated to respond to the problems in agriculture. Achieving self-sufficiency in vital crops needed by the country or even achieving a desirable change in agriculture is impossible given present conditions. As we have seen so far, not using the full potential of agriculture will in turn add to food imports which results in the country's dependence. There should be a serious look at policies, including the coordinated policy of imports, distribution and production. There should be a coordinated movement between the industrial and agricultural sectors, organization in village communities, choosing and selecting mechanization methods, a system for farmers with little land, relative increase in income for villagers through combining agriculture with industry, providing social security with priority given to villagers and tribesmen, strengthening village centers and creating more villages and towns, easing the way for people to invest and reconsideration of the administrative machinery governing agriculture. If fast and serious steps are not taken toward these issues, without a doubt self-sufficiency will remain only a slogan.

In conclusion Zali mentioned some points in connection with issues facing his constituency of Karaj. He thanked the officials for solving the problems in Karaj.

Regulatory Warning From Karim Shafe'i—With Regard to Investigations Concerning the Actions of the Tehran Municipality.

During yesterday's open session of the Majles, Karim Shafe'i, the people's deputy from Marand, gave a regulatory warning with regard to investigations into the actions of the Tehran municipality in accordance with Article 149 of the Majles' internal regulations. In a speech, he said:

Unfortunately, despite the letter that the respected head of the internal affairs commission wrote to the Interior Ministry and the Tehran municipality, asking them to list their assets and income, from all sources, both from income and from fines, the only thing that the Tehran municipality has done is send a list of their belongings which covers only one portion of the letter. Despite the fact that the law is quite clear and despite the fact that Article 176 of the Constitution is quite clear, when the experts from the investigations' unit arrived at the Tehran municipality, they were faced with an order from the mayor that the municipality should not cooperate. I talked to Mr Nuri the interior minister on the telephone, and he used the excuse that the Majles regulations specify that they should be given one month and since even this one month could be extended, he said they decided not to cooperate.

He then referred to the Majles internal regulations and discounted the Interior Ministry claims saying: The law has not given the other side the right not to cooperate with the investigations unit. My conclusion is that first of all the Tehran municipality and the Interior Ministry, despite a Majles ruling with regard to several billion rials which we claim has been received and spent illegally, they have not given us even the smallest of reports and they have not cooperated.

Mr Karrubi in reply to the regulatory warning by the deputy from Marand said: The municipality has written a letter saying that the gentlemen did not arrive on time according to the law, that they came when their legal deadline had run out. The gentlemen say they went on time. God willing, we shall look into this issue. During this session two plans were received:

1. Law to define the charter of Iran's gas companies.

2. Law to define the charter of the national petrochemical industry.

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[Text]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles.

Legal and Parliamentary section:

In yesterday's open session of the Majles following discussions on the impeachment of Education Minister

Dr Najafi, the Majles gave him a vote of confidence once again, with 138 in favor, 77 votes against and 11 abstentions.

Najaf-qoli Habibi, Deputy From Tehran: We See a Lot of Damage Caused by the Actions of the Education Department From the Days of Dr Najafi.

To start, Najaf-qoli Habibi, deputy from Tehran spoke as one of the deputies who had signed the request for impeachment. He said: In accordance with the Constitution, impeachment is a right given to the people's representatives for the purposes of general supervision. Contrary to what the scandal-makers are saying, it is not done only to weaken the government, but rather if it is done in accordance with the rules and regulations, it will without a doubt strengthen the government. Those who try to make an unpleasant atmosphere by saying this is a step to weaken the government, in reality show their own lack of respect for the Constitution.

He added: What is being brought up today in terms of impeachment, is not a factional move, contrary to what the scandal-makers are saying. It is a move that asks for help from God in order to carry out one's duty which will result in the mistakes of the executive branch becoming more obvious.

There is no way a political label could be struck on this move. If one looks at the people who have signed this proposal, this becomes quite clear.

He then termed the actions of the education department as unpleasant and commented on the rate of hiring and firing which has been mentioned in the report by the analysis commission. He said:

There are those who perhaps have the right to say that the minister has the authority to change managers; therefore what is the problem? This is our true course and there is no problem with the first step. The question is why the changes have been made. How were they made? Does this mean better forces, in terms of revolutionary values and expertise, have come to replace unpious, unreligious and unworthy people? If it is the case where revolutionary forces have replaced counter-revolutionary people who were without experience and were indifferent, our Islamic regime approves of this and there are no problems. But the question is this: All those managers who were placed in their positions by great men such as martyrs Raja'i, Bahonar, dear brothers Mr Akrami and Mr Parvaresh, who tolerated the heavy burden of responsibility during the difficult days of the war, were all those people incompetent in terms of Islamic revolutionary values? Or was it the case that they did not have enough expertise? Most of them had worked for many years in their posts, so was that the case? For example, those who have replaced brother Mozafar, the former head of the Tehran education department, are all those better in terms of Islamic revolutionary values, expertise and work experience?

Habibi added: You are aware how much the training of a manager costs. It is always the case where good and experienced managers are the biggest, most valued and the dearest investments of a people and a country. At this time, under these conditions, removing all these managers from their positions because of personal political preferences and not because of general values of the regime, is this a correct thing to do? Is this in the interest of the people and the government? Are you, Mr Minister, capable of calculating the financial and spiritual cost of this action and report it to the people?

The deputy from Tehran continued his remarks: The respected deputies and our great people know that the results of cultural work do not become obvious quickly. Now if this act is pleasant, its positive results will, God willing, become known and if the action is negative, its negative and damaging results will be great for our society. As it happens, we see much of the damaging results now. This means that a revolution has taken place, all values have been put in place, the society has emphasized a series of values and principles, Hezbollah forces have taken hold in the country. Then there are some more actions that occur within these changes. When the issue becomes one of factions, the problem becomes a hundred times worse. If, for example, a minister wants to change managers, he will say, if I choose one from this group, the other group will be upset. If I choose from the other faction, this group will be upset. This happens when both factions are followers of the Islamic revolution and are responsible elements in the regime. Therefore, it is possible that the minister may come and put in place an indifferent person who has no faction. The damage that this sort of action can cause is great.

He concluded: In any case, this situation cannot continue and it is not good for the future of the Islamic revolution or the Islamic Republic regime. It must be prevented by any means possible. Now the respected Majles is in control and should prevent this in any way that it wants. There have been efforts made and there have been notices given to the respected deputies several times. This is a difficult issue that we face and our people are also facing this.

Abdol-Rasul Musavi, deputy from Mamasani.

Abdol-Rasul Musavi, deputy for the people of Mamasani was another in favor of impeachment. He said: The Constitution is the holiest achievement of the revolution. The Constitution gives all that power to the Velayat-e Faqih and defines limits. The values of the regime are based on the Constitution. In the next few years that have passed with Mr Najafi as minister, he has been noted to be indifferent to the law, the legal opinions of the deputies and the wishes of the Majles. In general the duty of the Majles is to see that the laws are correctly implemented.

He then said: The dignity of the Majles has been violated many times by the ministry. A deputy has gone to the

ministry for investigation, he has been insulted and the education minister has been rude to him. Is this the way to treat a legal representative of the country?

He added: The Education Ministry must place everything at the disposal of the investigations' unit. This he has not done. He has always done something to put the Majles on the defensive, then he likes to do something in order to stand like a bully and confront the Majles.

Abdol-Rasul Musavi, Deputy From Mamasani: The Impeachment of the Education Minister Is a Power Lever in the Hands of the President So That He Can Manage Ministers Better.

Musavi then commented on taking tuition fees from students and said: Of course, tuition fees were collected in the days of previous ministers, but at this time the fees are too high. To put on a religious hat, then to take tuition fees, especially those of 1 million rials from the respected parents of the pupils, especially in the education department, and to think in a material way, is against the spirit of the Constitution.

He concluded by saying: God is my witness. I took part in the impeachment process because it is a lever in the hands of the president so that he may be able to choose ministers better.

Ahmad Mahmud Robati, Deputy From Shahriyar.

The third speaker to comment on the impeachment was Ahmad Mahmud Robati, the deputy from Shahriyar and Robat Karim.

He said: In general, if we analyze the progress of nations, we see that a major factor for progress is the issue of management and the system of management.

In reality, countries that progress have a very high regard for their managers. If we look very deeply, we see that all the money is spent, in terms of time, financial expenses and facilities, just so that one person can become an expert and give good service. These are all considered to be investments. The cost of training a manager is a kind of investment. On the other hand, if a country is not able to use the investment that had been made in the best possible way, it is a kind of damage and it is money that has been wasted.

Ahmad Mahmud Robati, Deputy From Shahriyar: Those Responsible for Education Must Be Very Sensitive To Use All Facilities in Times of Priority and Emergency.

He then commented on the issue of management after the Islamic revolution and said: The imam and our officials knew that our young managers had problems, but they supported and encouraged them and guided them so that in time they would gain experience. Now, after 12 years since the revolution, we see those in the education department who have gained experience in their years as managers in various fields and they have grown. But we see that with the changing of a minister all this investment that has been made is being thrown away. Are we responsible only in terms of the rials which are tangible? Are we not responsible for the deep and basic investments that have been made? Is the respected Majles not responsible in terms of its duties? Should it now show its sensitivity in terms of such issues? There is no problem that a minister has been changed. But our interests have to be considered. What were the costs? What sort of problem did we fact to come to a stage where people could be of service? We make decisions very easily without any consideration. In countries where they have multiple political party systems they have reached a conclusion, from experience, that with the changing of a minister, the managers at the very top level are hardly changed at all.

He continued: The other issue is the unfair use of government funds without taking note of priorities. Keeping in mind the enormous needs of the education sector and the limits that exist, it is natural that those responsible must be very sensitive so as to use the facilities that exist in emergencies and in priority cases.

He ended by saying: Within the framework of what concerns the respected minister, the expectations have not been met and it is expected that improvements in the education department be done as a matter of priority.

'Ali Pur Mohammadi Fallah, Deputy From Astaneh Ashrafiyeh.

The fourth deputy in favor of impeachment was 'Ali Pur Mohammadi Fallah, deputy from Astanneh Ashraifiyeh.

He said: Let us forget the tension, the deals that are made under the current sensitive conditions, using the weakness and fear in some people. His lack of qualifications was mentioned before, even at the time that he was receiving a vote of confidence from the Majles. But with regard to the support and belief that I have in the governments of Messrs Musavi and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I gave a vote of confidence to Mr Najafi for the post of education minister.

But as a result of professional and executive contacts that I have had with him during this period, I have noticed that, unfortunately, he has not only not managed to make up for past damages, but he has also abused the rightful support that the Majles has given to the oppressed teachers to compensate for some of the low pay of the teaching profession. He has created a power base for himself and many of the forces that were created during the hard conditions of the revolution and the imposed war, who were investments for the education department who have been rejected by him because of his pride. In a recent seminar, he also gave an ultimatum to one group. If he receives a vote of confidence he will get rid of everyone.

Hoseyn Qazi-zadeh Hashemi, Deputy From Fariman.

The fifth person in favor of impeaching the education minister was the deputy from Sarakhs, Fariman and

Ahmadabad, who gave his reasons for impeachment. He said one of the reasons why he wanted to impeach Dr Najafi was the drop in children's education level. He quoted a report from the national investigations' unit in this regard and said: In a report dated 2 February 1991 this organization comments on a sector in Lorestan: In this village the number of students who have passed their local and final examinations is much lower. This means that the percentage of students who pass their exams for first grade high school is 13 percent, second grade high school 26 percent, third grade high school 2 percent and the level of passes for 5th grade primary school in June 1990 was about 21 percent.

Qazi-zadeh talked about the trend in lower percentages of passing students and said: The trend of students passing in one of the high school grades in 1987-1988 was about 81 percent and in 1988-1989 dropped to 72.5 percent, which means a drop of 8.5 percent. With an increase of 2.5 percent of passing students in 1990-1991, at present the drop has been kept steady compared to 1988-1989. He said the reason for the drop in the number of students passing their tests was the management methods of the minister and the executive officials of the Education Ministry. He said: It has been said by the teachers that one of the reasons that the education level of students has dropped is the useless and untimely change of course titles, which creates serious problems for students at exam time.

The deputy for the people of Fariman, Ahmadabad and Sarakhs said another reason for the drop in the students' level of education was the fact that their school books were not reaching them on time.

He said: In terms of assistance for teachers the minister has only given some contradictory interviews and several promises. With regard to a loan with an interest rate of 4 percent and giving land to teachers, no positive steps have been taken.

Qazi-zadeh Hashemi Deputy From Fariman: One of the Reasons for the Drop in Education Levels Is School Books Not Being Delivered on Time.

The deputy from Fariman, Sarakhs and Ahmad-abad said the education minister's comments on receiving tuition fees from students' parents was contradictory. He said: In an interview with KEYHAN newspaper on 5 August 1990, Mr Najafi said that in order to prevent the collection of compulsory tuition fees from parents, a group of investigators will be stationed in schools at registration time. But in another interview with the same newspaper at some other time, he said the opposite: We must tell people directly, without twisting our words by using phrases such as "aid" and "help," that they should pay a minimum of 5 percent of their children's school fees.

He also mentioned the removal of the former manager of the education ministry's internatinal office, having an exam for teachers who want to be sent abroad and sending teachers to Turkey withut a work permit as further reasons to impeach the minister of education.

Asghar Nowruzi Deputy From Damavand.

Asghar Nowruzi people's deputy from Damavand was the sixth in favor of impeachment.

He commented on the fact that at the time the cabinet was being introduced he had given a negative vote to the education minister and added: Despite the fact that I gave Dr Najafi a negative vote, during the whole time he was in that post I cooperated with him.

He added: We expected the education department to enter the scene as a main body, keeping in mind the fact that we have put behind us the imposed war, in order to reconstruct, encourage and realize talents and create a spirit of kindness, sincerity and brotherhood. It is expected that in terms of manpower, which is the most important axis for the regime, that utmost self-sacrifice be exercised. It is hoped that you would not enter into factional confrontations to remove and be unkind to the brother teachers and those responsible in the education department. But unfortunately, as time went by with him as minister, we saw how his actions clearly indicated a deviation up to a point that we can see this quite obviously in the list of hiring and firing.

He commented on the figures for changes within the ranks of managers in provinces and said: These changes have been made over and over again within the ranks of deputies in charge of education, finance, administration and legal affairs in the ministry. We see that instead of the standards and conditions imposed in choosing and replacing managers, the standards that we have often seen have been introduced by the minister. These include the charge of weak management brought out as an excuse to get rid of Hezbollah elements who were in the highest posts. When we reach a conclusion on the standard of expertise,those same qualities that the Imam realized to be the most important qualifications, such as martyrdom, and participation at war fronts and on holy crusades, we see that on average those who have been fired from the Education Ministry have 21 years' previous employment and those who have been hired have 11 years previous work record.

As far as educational qualifications are concerned, we see that those managers who have university degrees and above have been removed and replaced by those with lower educational certificates.

In another section of his speech, Nowruzi said: It is being said that in terms of attracting teachers and improving the education of teachers, the minister has also taken steps. But you know well that this is something that we decided on in the Supreme Education Council. The crusade to build schools was done in the days of brother Akrami, who even got permission from the imam to spend one-third of the imam's religious tax on this.

He added: If it were not for the support of the great leader, the plan to change the educational system would not have been approved because the minister did not

believe in this too much. But today, they are making moves in this regard as a correction to the secondary level of education.

He concluded by wishing that the deputies would give a negative vote to Dr Najafi, thereby putting an obstacle in the path of the current trend.

Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri, Deputy From Qasr-e Shirin.

The last speaker in favor of impeachment was Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri, the deputy from Qasr-e Shirin. In a speech he said: There were some issues which caused us to take part in the impeachment including defense of the Majles and the attitude of Mr Najafi toward the Majles and its deputies.

He stressed the legal rights of the Majles and complained about the treatment given by the education officials to members of the Majles investigations' committee. He said: Truly, we reach the conclusion that there is a bullying attitude in the face of the will of the people, whose ideals have been collected and gathered within the Majles. There are examples of this. He has truly not cooperated and has not accepted the law.

He talked about the changes within the management of the education department and said: One manager cannot impose his will on his employees by removing them. He cannot impose one direction, aimed at construction, by committing violations. One of the qualities of management is to be able to get rid of tension. A manager who creates tension himself will of course not be able to make himself more secure in the long run. I myself saw that during the period that Mr Najafi was manager, he started out in a confrontational mood.

He added: We have really not seen practical belief in Islam, which is being discussed in terms of the Constitution and the Velayat-e Faqih, in this brother. We did not see him show his practical belief in the Constitution and the Majles.

If the question is to strengthen the Islamic Republic regime, where should we send these people? A good manager who is in control is one who can really use the forces, even those who are not in line with the thoughts of their minister, and this has not been the case in the Education Ministry.

Dr Najafi's Defense: Education Minister

Following speeches by some deputies who had signed the plan to impeach the education minister, Dr Njafi gave a speech which started with greetings on the occasion of Teachers' Day and teachers who had been martyred. He then commented on the impeachment and said:

I very much wanted this impeachment plan to be discussed by the Majles. When some of the brothers said that the impeachment process may not go through, I was truly not in favor of that happening. I was asking God to give me the opportunity to discuss with you dear people, for a few moments, the problems of education. This was especially important because after the issue of "investigations" there were a lot of questions raised in the minds of the people in general and their representatives. It was necessary that some of these be answered. It was necessary to clarify the tensions caused by some in the Education Ministry by discussing issues such as "the minister is about to go," or "we will soon impeach him," or "we will soon get rid of him," and "he will be sorted out soon."

He said: Many of you believe that most of these debates are not as worthy as a feather. In this huge creation, the effects that we leave behind in the period of 50 or 60 years, will not be of any value at all. In this great revolution which our people have achieved with the blood of their martyrs and the leadership of the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and in this regime which is being talked about by friend and foe, I do not see myself as being worthy to defend myself. Therefore, in terms of material value, one must forget all these comments and one must wait for a decision, without explanation, from you respected deputies. But in terms of spiritual values, education is very dear to us. Service in that office is very worthy. I have no doubt that any move on our behalf to safeguard the regime is a saving for the hereafter. In my opinion, the education department presents the most opportunity to be of some service.

Dr Najafi also added: In the Education Ministry I was given 31 months to serve and I thank God for this. It would be dear to me if this period were to be extended. These posts, both great and small are in fact pathways which are not worthy for one to stop. Their value is only in terms of their service to Islam, the revolution and the people.

The education minister said these discussions will be recorded in history for future generations to see and note those points which have been brought about to impeach the education minister. This will be a document in the history of the Islamic revolution, he said. He added: I convey my respect and my affection to all those who took this heavy duty before me, under conditions which were much harder than the conditions that exist today. These include the war conditions that existed during the times of brothers Parvaresh and Akrami. To work in wartime was difficult. Then there were the two dear and martyred brothers Raja'i and Bahonar, at a time when the political activities of the counter-revolution were in control throughout the country, making the education department their base—yet they kept education on its feet. There was only our other dear brother Dr Shokuhi, who was able to work in the cabinet of the provisional government, to hand over to others from one stage to another.

He then gave facts and figures to prove action of the Education Ministry during his term as minister. In continuing his speech he talked about the percentage of students who had passed their exams last June and

August and said: The percentage of those who passed in 1988-1989 was 65.9 percent. In 1989-1990 it was 70.39 percent.

Education Minister: In 1988-1989 the Number of Schools for Martyrs' Children Was 310 While in 1989-1990 This Number Had Gone to 429. Does This Not Indicate the Education Minister's Attention Toward the Families of Martyrs?

He added: In the investigations' unit report it was said that I did not pay attention to the families of martyrs and the disabled. What is your first expectation from an education minister with regard to families of martyrs? Is it not to have the minister realize and implement that historic and fate-determining speech made by the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—with regard to educating the children of martyrs? Of course, the person the message was addressing was Mr Karrubi and three ministers. The number of schools for martyrs' children in 1988-1989 was 284 and in 1990 had reached 429. This shows an increase in schools for martyrs' children.

Dr Najafi then remarked on the statement by the opposition that most of those in the education department do not accept him and said: If the majority of the department opposes me, then we should have thousands of issues in education.

The education minister then talked about whether or not the Ministry had confronted a team from the [Majles] investigations unit. He said: Our understanding of the investigations unit was that since the department is large and since it has strong ties with the people, whatever the result of the investigations unit will be, it would be good for the department. We thought in the end it would cause more officials and Majles deputies to be attracted to the Education Ministry. This understanding was stated to Mr Karrubi in a letter. On 31 October 1990 Mr Bayat wrote a letter to the commission saying that the request of the investigations' unit was approved, and that this should now be pursued by the education commission. The commission then passed this letter to us.

There is a sentence from Mr Bayat which he had written at the end which I will read now: "It is obvious that according to Footnote 1 of Article 151, the body that is under investigation has the duty to place at the disposal of the commission all necessary documents and information." We said that the organization that was under investigation was the Education Ministry. We even wrote a letter to Mr Qomi as the head of the commission, saying, please specify whatever documents you want and whatever information you seek, and we will provide them for you at the appropriate time. I never wrote anything to the provinces telling them not to cooperate. They have said that there was a directive from the minister giving orders not to cooperate—I have really not issued such a directive. The Ministry's deputy in charge of parliamentary affairs passed to the provinces a letter that I had written to the commission. That letter said, keeping in mind the material to be handed over, they must be gathered together and the Ministry must be informed what documents are to be handed over, so that if in the future there is a question, we would be in a position to issue a reply to clarify matters.

He continued: When we said that the conduit for information should be the Ministry, this was because this method is more respectful. I wrote to Mr Karrubi, saying it is hoped that this method would be more respectful, quicker, and would be more capable of realizing the goals of the Majles so that in the regime of the Islamic Republic the limits of Islamic principles and the dignity of the respected Majles and its dear deputies would be safeguarded.

Dr Najafi: It Was Better To Quickly Clarify the Tensions That Some People Were Trying To Cause by Saying Things Like "The Minister Is About To Go," and "We Will Soon Impeach and Get Rid of Him."

He added: This investigation is normal for us and is the right of the Majles. But for a teacher in Kahnuj, when they say "investigations unit" he thinks anyone that comes will be followed by the prosecutor with a warrant for his arrest. You should really ask these issues of the teachers and the people. My own wife is a teacher at the teachers' training center. The day that the investigations unit was discussed in the Majles, when I went home, I swear to God, she was really scared. What is this investigation for? You deputies and we ministers and officials know that investigation is the right of the Majles and is even correct and should be done. If one day I were to become a Majles deputy, I, too, will ask for investigations. There is no debate on this. The education minister then said: Now, if you go to a school and it is in need of repair, is that the fault of the minister? If you say, for example, that 1 percent of our schools are in bad shape—perhaps that may be true—when we have 80,000 centers of learning, what is the ratio? If you find 800 schools that are really in bad shape, it does not prove anything. This means that going to visit a school unannounced does not solve a problem in terms of investigations.

He pointed out other aspects of the investigation report and said: They have said that there is no English course for the first year of high school and we have replied that since 1988 we have removed this course from the first year of high school. This is something that all the brother deputies, teachers and the general public know about. There was another point that a book on sociology and the first course on humanities had not arrived. The answer to this is clear. This book has been removed from the curriculum and instead of these two books, there is a book on the history of Iranian literature and the history of first-year humanities. Did you not know that the programs had been changed? For example, they have said that the book on growth and progress and the book on Islamic economics for fourth year students had not arrived. Brothers, these books have been removed and these two courses have been combined!

The education minister continued:

The information that the investigations' unit has obtained is wrong and based on that information, the conclusion that the unit has reached has problems. We said that the unit should work through the Ministry. We had over 1,000 pages of material that we could have placed at their disposal. For example, they said that we had to give them, in a period of 15 days, the complete personal history of all deputies, headquarters' managers and heads of sections throughout the whole country who had been removed from their jobs. We do not have a computerized personnel record. If God is willing, we shall have one. Obtaining records at the education department is so slow that we used to receive our exam results at the end of the year. In that case, we could not have made a decision. For the first time this year, we have implemented a system for recordkeeping so that by January 1991 we would know the exam results of August 1990. That way, we would at least know if there were problems in the courses either in regions or the provinces, so that we had five or six months to correct it. When the unit said that report had to be handed in in 15 days' time, we did not have the list. They asked us to provide a complete list of heads of education units, primary, secondary, high school, teachers' training, technical and vocational as well as experts and officials in charge of the provinces of Khorasan, Tehran, Kordestan, Mazandaran, Eastern Azarbayjan, Fars, Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad and Sistan and Baluchestan who had so far been removed from their jobs, within 18 days. The number of these educational centers is 33,704 in 18 provinces. So I had to prepare in 18 days the result of my work in 33,000 educational centers in 18 provinces divided as mentioned before. We prepared a form and sent it to the province. The province sent it the section involved. Those sections, since they are not computerized, put two people in charge of the task. In the process of doing this task, our managers in the provinces were frightened of the investigations unit and they were saying, we will no longer go to the province because we know we have not stolen anything. I tried to calm them down, saying, according to what you have just said, this means that I have stolen. I said nobody had stolen anything, that the issues mentioned do not relate to anyone in particular. It is the right of the Majles to investigate. Then at the end I gave them an ultimatum. I said I want this information quickly. If you do not do that, in the next seminar I will mention the names of those people who have given incorrect information. Even in the new seminar that we had, which was planned one month earlier, I said, without mentioning any names, that two or three provinces had worked very badly in giving information. Dr Najafi added: The other issue that they wanted from us was: 1. A list of overtime by headquarters' managers and high-level advisors at the Ministry. 2. A list of overtime payments or bonuses to the respected deputies and so forth. Is this not dragging a ministry through the mud? They ask me for a list of overtime by my deputies, the same deputies that you [passage indistinct] I gave them everything. Now what are you going to do? God knows I was at first embarassed to mention this in a session for the deputies. The brothers know that there was no question of overtime.

Dr Najafi then commented on the investigations' unit's report on schools abroad and said:

In the deputies' commission it was decided that our schools abroad should be strengthened, that the teachers should be selected this way or that way. Now in the investigation unit's report, the brothers have taken the first sentence from a remark made by the deputy who was in opposition, who had said that the schools abroad are really bad, and they have taken this as their argument. Then they say, the situation in our schools abroad is so bad that even one of their deputies has said this.

Dear brothers, the minutes of the meeting which are in your hands, you should have read them and you should have seen the conclusions reached. In those same minutes, the manager of the office of international relations has given some details. He said: One of the reasons for our weakness is that the children of our Iranian employees in Germany go to German schools in the morning and go to the Iranian school in the afternoon. This shows that our school is weak in terms of science. Well, another of our brothers explained that it is German law where if a country's school in Germany has not achieved official standing, the children of that country's officials have the duty to be registered in German schools. So what should we do in the face of this law? We managed to organize some classes for them in the afternoons. Our ambassador took a lot of time and effort on this. There is a preliminary agreement with Germany so that they may give our schools official standing. If God is willing, their officials are supposed to come to Iran, and we have sent a message to our ambassador that there must be some German education officials in that delegation so that we can complete the deal.

He added: Another point that the brothers mentioned was that they asked us to quickly give them the minutes of the council of the ministry's deputies' meetings. We do not have any minutes at all. The ministerial deputy who was in fact a Majles deputy in the Second Majles, whom the brothers know very well, he should be asked to see if there are any minutes. He himself took notes at the meeting, but that does not mean minutes were taken. We even sent a reply to these brothers that minutes taken from these notes would not be official, because they are the personal notes of one of the gentlemen present. Then they said, you have to give something that would be official. We had neither tape nor minutes, so we said the notes were official.

The discussions were postponed until the afternoon open session.

The Majles' Continued Debate in the Afternoon Session.

About 2:15 yesterday afternoon the open session of the Majles was once again held and Dr Najafi continued his remarks.

He said to make a big issue of hiring and firing is not a correct thing to do, that the truth should be told to the Majles. He added: Messrs Parvaresh and Akrami were each minister of education more than 30 months. Keeping in mind that for a time I was education minister in the cabinet of Mr Musavi, this means that all in all I have been in the post some 31 months. During this term of Mr Akrami 36 managers and during the time of Mr Parvaresh 26 managers were changed. In 31 months, I have only changed 18, which, compared to the other two, is much less. This means we have moved in the direction of stability. Take these same 253 regions. Suppose that the average term for an education manager is 4 years (I, as minister over a period of 31 months, have been voted three times, and today I may not get a vote) and if this in fact is completed, it is very good. This means that every year, 25 percent of the managers have to be changed. In a period of 31 months, something like 65 to 70 percent of the managers should have been changed. According to the figures that the gentlemen have given themselves, 60 percent have been changed and the action has been even better than before. One of the brothers right now has said that he did not change the manager for Bakhtaran. In the areas where we changed people, they came and asked why we had made the changes and in those places where we did not change, they asked why there was no change. In one place, when we listened to a recommendation from Majles deputy, they asked why we had listened to the Majles deputy.

The representatives of Mazandaran province have written a letter with 10 to 12 signatures to say that the education manager of the province had been elected in accordance with the suggestion of all Majles deputies from Mazandaran who were unanimous in their decision. Even then with the recommendation of these Majles deputies, I was not satisfied. They had put forward six persons as candidates, and apart from one of them, I had lengthy personal interviews with all, and from among the people interviewed, I recognized this brother to have managerial qualities.

He continued: You can see that these forces that are present now in the Ministry, including the minister and his deputies, have at least in terms of their educational qualifications—doctorates, masters' degrees and engineering degrees—the highest level of degrees since the revolution.

Dr Najafi then commented on the warnings given by the deputies to the education minister and said: From the start of 1989 until March 1991, the number of warnings passed on to ministers from the president's office should be compared. Please note the position of the Education Ministry with its huge network, as comapred to other ministries. The number of warnings received by the Health Ministry are 242, Road and Transportation 243, and Interior Ministry 268. All of these are large ministries. The Education Ministry had 188 warnings. You say in a one-sided manner that the Education Ministry received 118—yes, 118, but you should see the others as well, and then compare. With regard to questions, they said that there were 11 questions asked of me, out of which 9 replies were either convincing or the commission looking into questions had found then to be convincing, with a unanimous vote. There is still one question in the commission and another question by the deputy from Maragheh. This deputy did not go to the commission to pose his question and discuss the issue. It is not my fault that there were 11 questions, 9 of which received satisfactory answers.

Graph No. 1: The Situation of Funds for Education Offices Throughout the Provinces in 1989 (1,000 rials.)

General education: Returned funds 2,821,211 - Commitments that have been carried out 5,149,702 - Difference 208,491.

Technical and Vocational education: Returned funds 1,128,559 - Commitments carried out 1,083,110 - Difference 55,229.

Total: Returned funds 5,979,771 - Commitments carried out 6,232,813 - Difference 253, 042.

Explanation:

If only the returned funds are considered, keeping in mind the current funds available for education offices in 1989, the returned funds from the general education budget would be 0.0000.6 (combined with the current budget 0.099.4) and technical and vocational education would be about 0.03 (combined with the current budget 0.097) From the above chart it is obvious that there are more commitments than there are funds and that in the whole of the education department, there are no returned funds.

With regard to various bank accounts of the Ministry, he said:

The various bank accounts are among the chronic problems of the education department. Starting about one year ago, we have started to investigate to find a solution for this. In 1987 in Tehran province, they asked for a report from the regions that they should clarify their bank accounts to see how many of them are in the name of the government and which of them are not. Only in one area of Tehran, in the vocational and training sector there were 110 accounts in banks, most them being non-government accounts. This is really a problem for the people and the report of the investigations' unit is correct. In the Ministry itself, we had seven or eight bank accounts which were controlled by those who were not involved in the operations. We have closed four or five of them. [Passage indistinct] have asked them for a report to see what accounts exist in the provinces. Dear brothers, they cannot all be closed at the same time. This was something quite correct, which was not my doing.

With regard to the purchase of a Mercedes Benz, the education minister said: Reasons are given, such as the fact that students do not have benches to sit on, and that the teacher does not have a chair. Why are things like this done? So that the other work of the education

department can also be prevented. For example, we started the plan to teach computer science on a trial basis, in the most oppressed of the provinces, Ilam, which is now under way. We will expand this work in 1991-1992. We need to buy 3,000 to 8,000 small computers. Now someone can come and say we do not have chairs, why are we buying computers? They have put aside 80 million for information technics. The issue of the Mercedes Benz is this: The education minister did not have a car. When I came here once or twice, my car broke down in the street and I had to travel by taxi. Once, when I was going to Rasht, the car broke down on the way and I was forced to use someone else's car to get back. We made all kinds of efforts to get a car from the prime minister's office, but it did not work. We eventually bought a new car from a warehouse for 30 million rials. Perhaps when they say 46 million rials, 10.6 was spent on the tax and so forth. They bought this for the education minister so that the next minister would also be able to use it. When do we want to bring education out of poverty? Before I became minister, I had a Renault, which I still use privately at night or on Fridays with my family.

With regard to the money spent on exemplary teachers, he said:

More than 50 percent of those who were chosen as exemplary teachers in 1989-1990 and who came to Tehran, were either soldiers or families of martyrs. When the Foundation of Martyrs gives seminars, where do they take them? They take them to a hotel.

In continuing his speech, the education minister denied that there had been an insult to Dr Najaf-qoli Habibi or others from the investigations unit and reminded them that engineer Honari had written him a letter to say that Dr Habibi and the other brothers had not even gone to that office.

Dr Najafi added:

The claim that I said there were six people from the investigations unit who wanted to be ministers, this is not true. I will read you the letter that I wrote to Mr Karrubi: "Six out of seven members of the investigations unit are serious contenders for the Education Ministry. During the past two years, they have made sharp remarks about the work of this Ministry." Serious contenders for posts within the Ministry, not the ministerial position itself.

With regard to some Majles deputies who had offered to support his ministerial position, he said: This list shows that this impeachment discussion was not of a political nature, with the kind of atmosphere that existed in society, where perhaps the deputies in favor of impeachment were from this or that side. There was a group that had problems with me and they voiced those problems. Thank God the two different political factions in the Majles are on the list and they wanted to speak in my favor. That shows their greatness and their kindness and I thank them for it.

He gave the remainder of his speaking time to Mahmud Do'a'i and Akbar Parvaresh, deputies from Tehran and Esfahan.

Mahmud Do'a'i, Deputy From Tehran

They Seyyed Mahmud Do'a'i, deputy from Tehran spoke in defense of Dr Najafi and said: Brothers, you all know that I am not one for talking in the Majles. I was elected to represent the honorable people of Tehran two times. This is only the second time I have stood at these microphones.

The reason I have not spoken and the reason I have given all my pre-agenda allocated time to other deputies who needed the time is because I felt whatever was needed to be said, I said before the revolution. After the revolution, if there is something that has to be said, because I have access to the media and have media responsibility, it is only right that I should use that media, not to take the time of other dear ones in the Majles. Brothers, if there is bitterness or sharpness in my speech, please tolerate it. Before wanting to defend Dr Najafi—which is a scientific honor [as published]—I want to defend the Majles and the honest, free, independent and magnanimous sector that makes up for most of the Majles. After that comes the respected president, because I feel that both investigations and impeachment, before affecting any of his ministers, affects his whole government. (Noise from some deputies.)

Funds Put Aside for Welfare Projects on a National and Provincial Level in Millions of Rials: [all figures as received]

1985 - 26,623; 1986 - 26,836; 1987 - 31,656; 1988 - 60,000; 1989 - 82,000; and 1990 - 200,000.

Do'a'i continues: The truth of the matter is that when the text of the investigation unit's report was printed, which unfortunately was not read out from these microphones, there was a sentence at the bottom. This sentence would make any freedom-loving person feel ashamed. Today I listened to the defense of our dear and worthy brother Dr Najafi and before I can give myself the right to defend him, I felt shamed that I first had to defend the Majles and the good majority of deputies that are in it.

The speaker of the Majles to the people who were making noise, who had said something in the midst of the speech: Gentlemen, keep quiet. Why are you disturbing the peace?

The brothers are aware that up to now in the Majles-...(noise and shouting from the deputies) I will tell you if I defend or if I insult. (The speaker of the Majles: Mr Do'a'i, please speak about Dr Najafi. Mr Robati, why are you making so much noise? You three or four, you keep making noise. You are shouting so much one would think there are 2,000 people shouting. Mr Do'a'i please defend Mr Najafi.)

Do'a'i continued: At the end of the text of the investigations unit, there was a sentence quoting Imam 'Ali which

said: "In come the hoodlums, the wise men are delayed." Today, Dr Najafi truly defended the wise men, to whom he is giving good service, for whom he is a symbol and a role model. He also commented on the fact that we, the people's deputies, that some of you had claimed wrongly that there are hoodlums in this country. I want to introduce the hoodlums today. (shouting from some of the deputies.) Today, I want to identify the hoodlums. (Majles speaker: Gentlemen, please sit down.) Mr Mohtashami, you are one of those who signed the impeachment proposal. I now ask you to be witness. One of the brothers who was put aside by Dr Najafi was the same person that our brother Mr Musavi—who is supported by most of those who have asked for impeachment—had promised to Mr Akrami to put aside, if he were to work with him. This person sent a message to me through one of the people at the University's Crusade that someone from the central core of the Militant Clerics (Rowhaniyun) Association has done something immoral and is now in prison. At that time, I had no contact with these brothers. But I felt sorry that in this country they were insulting a clergyman with a high record of political, religious, revolutionary and moral struggle and who is now one of the researchers in this country. I went to Mr Mohtashami and asked him to investigate the issue, to see what it was about. Mr Mohtashami looked into the matter. Two of our brothers from the Majles who are present today and that same wise man who has been removed from his post were invited to take part in a meeting of the Militant Clerics (Rowhaniyun) Association. Mr Karrubi, swear to the blood of martyrs and repeat what the man said.

Chart Number Three:

The Percentage of Students Who Passed in June and September, Compared to the Numbers of Participants:

Primary course:	1988-1989	fifth level, girls:	84.11
Primary course:	1989-1990	fifth level, girls:	84.43
Primary course:	1988-1989	fifth level, boys:	74.09
Primary course:	1989-1990	fifth level, boys:	77.21
Total: 1988-1989,	81.25	1989-1990,	81.91
Primary course:	1988-1989	all levels, girls:	82.36
Primary course:	1989-1990	all levels, girls:	19.05
Primary course:	1988-1989	all levels, boys:	85.43
Primary course:	1989-1990	all levels, boys:	86.71
Total: 1988-1989,	82.26	1989-1990,	88.24
Secondary level:	1988-1989	third level, girls:	78.25
Secondary level:	1989-1990	third level, girls:	75.88
Secondary level:	1988-1989	third level, boys:	64.42
Secondary level:	1989-1990	third level, boys:	66.32
Total: 1988-1989,	73.29	1989-1990,	70.16
Secondary level:	1988-1989	all levels, girls:	80.28
Secondary level:	1989-1990	all levels, girls:	78.30
Secondary level:	1988-1989	all levels, boys:	69.46
Secondary level:	1989-1990	all levels, boys:	75.26
Provinces:			
High school:	1988-1989	fourth level, girls:	70.84
High school:	1989-1990	fourth level, girls:	70.04
High school:	1988-1989	fourth level, boys:	56.38
High school:	1989-1990	fourth level, boys:	57.86
Total: 1988-1989,	62.68	1989-1990,	63.20
High school:	1988-1989	all levels, girls:	80.74
High school:	1989-1990	all levels, girls:	81.49
High school:	1988-1989	all levels, boys:	66.45
High school:	1989-1990	all levels, boys:	68.38
Total: 1988-1989,	72.63	1989-1990,	73.05

The Percentage of Students Who Passed in June and September, Compared to the Numbers of Participants: (Continued)

Vocational and Professional courses:			
1988-1989	fourth level, girls:	67.73	
1989-1990	fourth level, girls:	75.13	
1988-1989	fourth level, boys:	41.27	
1989-1990	fourth level, boys:	47.44	
Total: 1988-1989,	43.21	1989-1990,	53.90
1988-1989	all levels, girls:	78.41	
1989-1990	all levels, girls:	83.79	
1988-1989	all levels, boys:	61.63	
1989-1990	all levels, boys:	67.04	
Total: 1988-1989,	65.05	1989-1990,	70.39

These figures do not include those students from fourth year high school or colleges who passed in the winter.

[Continuation of the Majles session]

The Majles speaker: Mr Do'a'i!

[Do'a'i continues] That man for you is a wise man but we have to prove today in the Majles that the Majles is not a place for hoodlums. (Majles speaker: Mr Do'a'i!)

[Do'a'i continues] We must not allow one sector to do whatever it wants. The reason I like Dr Najafi and the reason I am defending him is that he is checking the path of those people with a superiority complex in this Republic, and he has stood in their way. (Majles speaker: Mr Do'a'i, this is not defense. Please defend Mr Najafi.) Do'a'i: Of course it is defense! (Majles speaker: Mr Do'a'i, you are not paying attention to the chairman. You used to be kind to us. Please speak about Mr Najafi and the issues that the impeachers discussed. Do'a'i: Those deputies in favor of impeachment, impeached the minister based on the investigation report. (Majles speaker: Mr Saleh-abadi please pay attention.) Do'a'i: At the end of the investigation report they brought up the subject of hoodlums and wise men. I want to make it understood in this country who is wise and who is a hoodlum. (Majles speaker: Mr Do'a'i why are you doing this?) Do'a'i: A bunch of crooks do whatever they want and it is then registered in the name of the Majles. (At this time the Majles speaker ordered that the radio transmitter, broadcasting the Majles proceedings live, be switched off. After one minute's disruption in the broadcast, the Majles was back on the air while a few of the deputies were still shouting.)

Khalkhali was shouting: This is shameful. This is dictatorship!

Majles speaker: Why are you people shouting? What has happened? Sit down!

Majles speaker: Mr Mo'ezi, please come and speak.

Majles speaker: Mr Khalkhali, what are you saying? Yes. All right. Now please sit down. Mr Khalkhali, Mr Borumand and Mr Ansari, please sit so that the session can quiet down. Then Mohammad Mo'ez-eddin started his speech.

Mohammad Mo'ez-eddin, Deputy From Esfahan (Opposing the Impeachment:) With Our Method of Confrontation We Have Done Something So That Even If We Choose the Best Person for Minister and Even If We Place at His Disposal the Best Possible Facilities, the Main Education Body Will No Longer Believe That We Want To Help Them.

Following the comments made by Seyyed Mahmud Do'a'i, Mohammad Mo'ez-eddin, deputy from Esfahan spoke in defense of Dr Najafi. He said:

You accept and you remember well that during the Second Majles one of our problems was that there were many people in this Majles who did the opposite of whatever engineer Musavi wanted to do. How many times the imam gave his advice to this Majles, and how many times did he show his support for the executive power headed by our great brother engineer Musavi? He knew well that the executive power had many problems. Quoting our great brother Mr Fazel Harandi, if the imam were alive now and this impeachment was brough about with such a weak proposal, would the imam not have been upset? Now, with this move, will the great leader of the revolution not be upset?

He continued his speech by saying: The criticisms that are made and the accusations that are brought about are so horrifying that one thinks that it would be better if Mr Hashemi thinks about the makeup of his cabinet again. Then you see that some of the issues are more for propaganda purposes, trying to sow seeds in the minds of the people. My request from the dear brothers and colleagues who have signed this impeachment is this: Dear ones, if your problems are the ones that you have mentioned, before Mr Najafi is impeached, there are a lot of other ministers that have to be impeached. But if you have other political considerations in mind, we are all followers of the imam's line. Issues are clear to us and

the possibility exists for us to sit at a session and say what we feel. If the majority reach positive points, then what is the reason for this method of confrontation, which endangers exactly the thing that you are worried about, which is the management of the holy regime of the Islamic Republic? God is witness now, if you go to any of our dedicated and competent brothers and ask them to become managers, governor generals, deputies or ministers, and because of the problems that exist in the area of management, they refuse to take responsibility. What will happen if we continue this way?

Our brother, who was one of the best educated in this country, who had graduated from the best and most well-known universities in the world, who has been able to serve on the imam's line as a Hezbollah—now we come and treat him this way. Then they will come and tell us, if Mr Najafi was treated that way, how will we be treated? If he agrees, I will quote our great brother the respected Majles speaker who himself was against this and had complained. Well, brothers, if we want to safeguard dignity, we would have had to start with the dignity of our own leader.

Graph Showing the Number of Teachers Accepted Into Further Education Courses:

In 1986, 250; 1987, 1,120; 1988, 1,622; 1989, 16,350; and in 1990, 22,250.

Graph Showing the Number of Classrooms Built:

In 1985, 1,680; 1986, 250; 1987, 2,892; 1988, 5,211; 1989, 12,820; and 1990, 13,000.

Graph Showing the Land Covered by School Buildings and Educational Administrative Offices (in Thousands of Square Meters.)

In 1985, 526; 1986, 126; 1987, 263; 1988, 703; 1989, 1,365; and 1990, 1,386.

[Continuation of the Majles session] The deputy from Esfahan also said: The point that is very dangerous—and this is something that some of the brothers insist on putting forward in the country—is that cultural views and values are undergoing a change in this country. Well, you say that the leadership has changed. Ayatollah Khamene'i was alongside the imam and we have all seen his work. Now he has the title of leader. If values are about to be changed in this regime, he will stand against that tide all alone. Then there is the issue of the presidency of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with his shining past, with all his efforts. There is also Hajj Mr. Karrubi, the respected Majles speaker whose real duty is to safeguard those values. If—God forbid—the values are about to be changed, then these men should start protesting before any of us. Then they talk abut cultural deviations. See how much our children have to listen to such talk in their schools and universities. Since they have a pure mind, the least that can happen to them is that they will be worried. The least that can happen is that this will damage the crusading spirit that exists in our society. Can you guarantee that the future of this country will not be like the times of war? Conditions should not be created to force us to mobilize our forces again to confront such plots. Then if we have to mobilize our forces, with such actions, they will have created so much instability in society that the forces will not come forward to volunteer.

Mo'ez-eddin in another section of his speech addressed the deputies and said: We keep asking the people and ourselves to be pious; where must this be implemented? Keeping in mind the sensitivity of education, with the sort of confrontation that we have, we make it more sensitive. Even if you choose the best possible people as ministers, and even if you put everything at their disposal, those forces will not come forward to give you an answer. The main education body will no longer believe that we want to help it, that we want to solve its problems. We have implanted these misconceptions in the minds of each of our teachers throughout the country, and now our work will be much harder.

With regard to economic issues he said: You have approved a five-year plan, you have defined policies and you have entrusted it to the government to implement. Many of the brothers whose criticism I hear now and again in the Majles, when I listen carefully, I realize that they themselves passed that five-year plan but they did not know what they were voting for. Now they say, how is it that this item is more expensive, and how is it that this welfare plan has not been implemented? They have not paid attention to what they were voting for.

'Abbas Duzduzani, Deputy From Tehran.

'Abbas Duzduzani, who was another in favor of impeachment, gave a speech announcing that each element must take is own designated place so that the regime can move forward with speed. He addressed the education minister, and said: I recognize you as one of the friends of the revolution and as a useful element of the regime. But keeping in mind that there are religious, revolutionary and popular elements in the Education Ministry, and despite my acknowledgement of your discernment and spirit, the post of education minister is not suitable for you.

He added: You want to work in education, but revolutionary, religious, and dedicated people in the education department cannot work with you.

He then outlined the deputies' right to impeach and said: They have put the right of impeachment in the Constitution so that at the proper time the representatives of the people can carry out their important duties with full understanding and sensitivity. Impeachment not only concerns a minister, but it is also a warning to the executive authorities. Therefore, impeachment is not weakness; it is to strengthen the regime as a whole.

'Abbas Duzduzani, Deputy From Tehran: Impeachment Not Only Concerns a Minister, but Is Also a Warning to the Whole Executive Power.

Concerning tuition fees, he said: The governor general's office in Tehran has written to the education officials: "The oppressed of society do not have the financial means to pay school fees. This is a problem for the lower income classes in society because some education centers hardly ever had appropriate orders and there are reports from some areas that indicate that up to 10 million rials have been obtained from parents before their children are registered in schools." This is the reality, and the charging of school fees needs more control.

He said that the figures given by Mr. Najafi with regard to management and reconstruction in education were fictional and not based on scientific facts.

Concluding Remarks by Dr. Najafi.

Following further remarks by those in favor of impeachment, Dr. Najafi made some comments and discussed the points raised by 'Abbas Duzduzani, deputy from Tehran.

He said: My dear brother, the difference between you and me is that you undertake actions in the areas where you feel you are useful, and I act in the area where the regime has given me responsibility. I have shown this throughout my life.

In 1989, when Mr. Hashemi wanted to form a cabinet, I presented him with a report on my previous activity which looked very much like begging and pleading. I recognize Mr. Hashemi to be an Islamic character of a kind very rare in the history of Islam, so I asked him to give me permission—keeping in mind my capabilities and the experiences that I had had in the executive field—to become his personal secretary. I know how to keep the bulk of the work away from a president, not to let him do most of the work. But Mr. Hashemi told me to be education minister. I told him what would be said in the Majles and the issues that exist. Despite all this, he told me to be education minister, that another person had said that I should be education minister. So I told him that even if he had asked me himself, without the endorsement of another person, it would have been enough for me.

The education minister said: Mr. Duzduzani, I accept what you are saying as one of the 270 Majles deputies. When I say that you speak fairly, I mean that you say what you feel, but it is not clear if what you think or believe is right. The basis of your analysis is unfortunately wrong. At that session of the Islamic association of teachers, I explained that your analysis of the education department is upside down.

He said: To see everything in education within the framework of an executive body is wrong, and it is also wrong to see everything in the executive body within a political framework.

Dr. Najafi added: I do not decide myself where I want to be; rather, the regime decides where I should be. In another section of his speech he said: Bulletin No. 1,553 of the Ministry of Intelligence says that a member of the Majles commission on education (Mr. Katira'i) went to the Ma'sumiyeh Girls' School on 21 March 1991 and talked to the teachers and staff there. According to the school official, discussions about groups, factions, and similar issues by him have caused concern among those who were present.

With regard to school fees, I must say that in 1990 some 200 billion rials were spent as part of a welfare budget by this ministry and from the provincial (not national) budgets; more than 96 percent has been allocated. Now you say I am lying.

He said: Just yesterday, the governor general of Tehran thanked the reconstruction body for attracting all of the 17 billion rial budget that was allocated to it in 1990.

So why should I lie, when I know that you will go and work on this material for the next 3 months to impeach the minister again on charges of lying in the previous impeachment debate.

Dr. Najifi added: The complaints that you make against the education minister; if tomorrow that minister changes and someone from your side or whatever other faction or group becomes minister, if after three months or six months or a year those problems are not solved, do not say that you changed a minister because of this problem, but the problem still remains. The issue of school books and their late delivery to students is a recurring problem for the Education Ministry.

Discuss those issues so that if another minister comes, he will not be faced with outrageous expectations and an intolerable situation.

He added: Whether I am minister or not, I will say that the education department is very large and its work is very hard. In reality, I see myself faced with two good alternatives. If you vote for me, I will thank you because I will have the honor to remain a minister in this cabinet for few more months—either until the next impeachment, or until the next government, or whatever. That way I would serve in a system that is the holiest within the regime of the Islamic Republic. If you do not vote for me, I will again thank you, because the responsibility will be lifted from my shoulders. In reality, I have always acted in accordance with duty, since when I returned to Iran to become a student of Dr. Chamran.

He said: I have never given, nor will I ever give—a promise to a Majles deputy to change a manager just because he wants that change.

But my ears are always open to what Majles deputies have to say. Whenever you have said anything to me, I have always listened, and I have always said that I will investigate. To say that there have been many changes in personnel—how many of you deputies stress and insist

on changing heads of education departments and managers in some areas, only to have me resist? Why is it that I am in a different category? The views of the deputies from each province and the views of the representatives of each town with regard to the officials of that province are important guidelines for me, but they are not the only considerations. There are factional problems in some areas and political problems in others. Sometimes there are problems that you are not aware of. For example, sometimes you complain about a problem with regard to a manager, whereas I know that the problem really has to do with me and that I have told the man to do that particular task. It is not easy to make a judgement in education work because the work is heavy. I have proudly carried this heavy load for 31 months, and this will remain the most shining period in my life's history. From now on, as long as the great leader, the respected president, and you, the Majles, want me, I will continue to serve the Islamic Republic. (Cries of approval from a large group of deputies.)

Following the remarks made by Dr. Najafi, the Majles speaker made some comments about the close working relations between government and the Majles and their close cooperation. He said that it was nearing election time as well as teacher's week, and he asked the deputies to give Dr. Najafi a positive vote.

With regard to the comments made by Seyyed Mahmud Do'a'i, he said that without a doubt Mr. Do'a'i was not talking about the Majles deputies when he made those remarks, because the deputies are honest, wise people who have suffered and who have been in prison. Also, the person who had said things about a prominent member of the Militant Clerics (Rowhaniyun) Association is surely wrong: He corrected his statement later.

Next, a ballot was taken, in which Dr. Najafi received, from a total of 225 votes, 135 votes in favor and 77 votes against, with 11 abstentions. This means that he once again received a vote of confidence.